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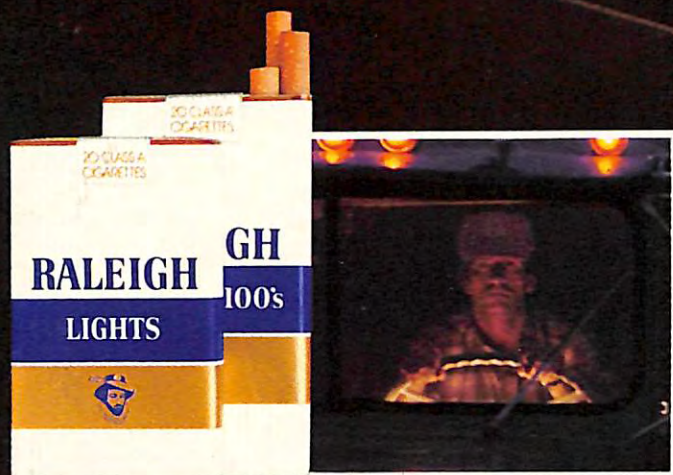
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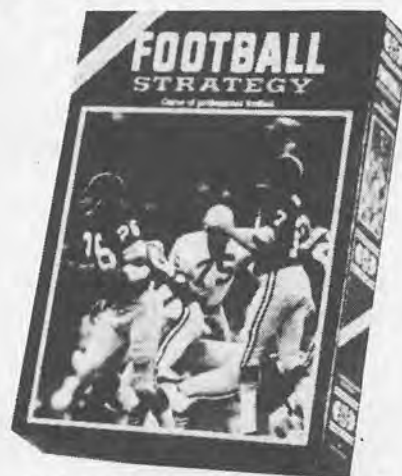
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Exciting moments in overtime

by **LARRY FELSER**

BUFFALO NEWS

● It was the most sudden of sudden deaths. It took only seconds. No great fuss. No long suffering. Those closest to the victim weren't able to absorb it until long afterward, as they sat in their cars fighting the late afternoon Thanksgiving traffic in Pontiac, Mich., last season.

Eddie Murray's kickoff settled into the soft hands of Dave Williams at the Chicago five-yard line. There was the usual mild rumble from the crowd as the Detroit coverage descended upon Williams. It did not, however, descend fast enough. Williams cut diagonally to his left. When he reached midfield, the rumble of the crowd became a gasp. He continued down the sidelines for a 95-yard touchdown run. He was so alone that his teammates came off the Bears' bench, across the sidelines, and were on their way for a congratulatory feast in the end zone when he crossed the goal line.

Sudden death. It's such an apt description. The proper name is overtime, but when a point is scored, it's all over.

Curt Gowdy, the veteran sportscaster, insists that it should be called "sudden victory." Gowdy would have had trouble convincing the Detroit partisans among the 75,397 fans in the Silverdome who had their Thanksgiving spoiled by Dave Williams. Even for the winning side, overtime is approached from an almost negative standpoint. It's an on-the-brink situation. There is peril involved in every play.

So sudden death it is. It provides some of the most entertaining moments in any football stadium. The wonder is that it took so long for the National Football League to legislate it into its regular season. The NFL experimented with overtime as far back as 1955, when the Los Angeles Rams required an extra period to defeat the New York Giants, 23-17, in an exhibition game in Portland, Ore.

The first overtime game which meant something was the game which many sports experts feel catapulted professional football into what was to become a national mania. That was the NFL championship game of 1958 between the Baltimore Colts and the New York Giants in Yankee Stadium. It was heralded as "the greatest game ever played."

It matched the era's most rugged defensive team, the Giants of Andy Robustelli, Jim Patton, Sam Huff, Dick Modzelewski, Emlen Tunnell, and Jim Katkavage, against the league's highest scoring offense, Johnny Unitas passing the ball to Raymond Berry, Jim Mutscheller, and Lenny Moore, with Alan Ameche, L.G. Dupre, and Moore running it.

The Giants had stymied Unitas for most of the afternoon, but in one last storm of passes, he led the Colts down the field in a drive which allowed Steve Myhra to kick the 20-yard field goal which sent the game into unprecedented overtime.

New York won the toss, but could not move the ball. Don Chandler punted the Colts back to their 20. Then Unitas, just 25 years old at the time and not the superstar he was to become within the hour, went to work. On a third-and-eight situation, Unitas passed to Ameche on a swing pattern for a first down. On another third-down play, Unitas passed to Berry for 21 yards.

Now the Giants had to play Unitas for the pass before they thought of anything else. Crossing them up, he sent Ameche up the middle for 23 yards.

Both the NFL and CBS, the network which had rights to the league's games, knew what they had going for them. When a technical problem blacked out the nation's screens for two and a half minutes, the officials called time-out for that period. When the problem was corrected, Unitas passed to Berry on the Giants' eight yard line.

The deep penetration brought up a question which to this day has never been fully answered: Why risk the possibility of a mistake? Why not kick a field goal from such point-blank range?

Karl Noonan signals Garo Yepremian's field goal is good in Miami's 27-24 overtime win over KC in 1971; Ed Podolak (below) gained 350 yards in that game.

The Colts didn't. Unitas fired to Mutscheller on a sideline pattern, putting the ball on the one. On the next play, Unitas put the ball in Ameche's stomach and the Horse ran through an enormous hole for the touchdown.

The game was over and the championship won. The fans were talking about it years later. Still, there wasn't another overtime game until 1962, when the NFL's upstart rival, the American Football League, held its championship in Houston's Jeppesen Stadium between the Dallas Texans (now the Kansas City Chiefs) and the Houston Oilers.

That was the occasion of one of the sport's most famous errors. Dallas won the toss, but the Texans' captain, Abner Haynes, stunned everyone in the stadium, especially his coaches and teammates, when he announced, "We'll kick to the clock."

Not only had Haynes surrendered the ball—in a situation where possession can be everything—but he chose the end of the field where the wind would be blowing in his team's face instead of at its back.

Haynes's error was to become sports lore, but it ended up not making much of a difference. The Texans' defense held Houston, which had roared back from a 17-0 deficit to send the game into overtime, and with about a minute left in the first overtime period, 6-foot-7 defensive end Bill Hull intercepted a George Blanda pass and returned it to midfield.

Two strong runs by Dallas fullback Jack Spikes moved the ball deep into Houston territory. The Texans tried to assure their rookie kicker, Tommy Brooker, as they set up to try a field goal from the 25-yard line. Instead, Brooker reassured them.

"Don't worry," he said. "It's all over."

It was. While the Giants-Colts was the first and the Chiefs-Oilers the most controversial, the longest, most fatiguing and nerve-fraying overtime contest was Miami-Kansas City on Christmas Day, 1971. It was the final game ever played in decaying Municipal Stadium. Kansas City's impressive Harry Truman Sports Complex, which included the Chiefs' home-to-be, Arrowhead Stadium, was well into construction.

The Chiefs were champions of the AFC West. Their lineup included most of the stars who had won Super Bowl IV against Minnesota just two years before. Miami, in its second season under coach Don Shula, was a team on the make.

Kansas City had won five of its last six regular-season games. The Dolphins had been defeated by their chief rival in the AFC East, Baltimore, 14-3, just two weeks before and needed an upset by New England over the Colts on the last day of the season in order to back into the division championship. For those reasons, and with the home-field advantage, Kansas City was a strong favorite.

The Chiefs seemed to justify the odds when they jumped out to an early, 10-0 lead. But Kansas City's defense made a key mistake, picking up a five-yard penalty on third down which gave

continued



Exciting moments in overtime

a Miami drive the life it needed. Bob Griese threw a 35-yard pass to Paul Warfield, a 16-yarder to tight end Marv Fleming, and then Larry Csonka plunged for the touchdown which put Miami back in the game. By halftime, it was 10-10, an indication of future developments.

It was to be a strange game in that two of the principal heroes were players who were not known for glamour, but for doing the grubby things of football well.

"If we had won," said Chiefs' owner Lamar Hunt afterwards, "Ed Podolak would have been a football legend." Indeed Podolak, a converted quarterback, would gain 350 yards, running, catching, returning punts and kickoffs.

For Miami it was Fleming, the tight end who functioned as a "third tackle." Big Marv was to qualify for four Super Bowl rings before his career ended, but his contributions were mainly as a blocker for strong running games in Green Bay and Miami. This day he would shine as a receiver, too.

Podolak was vitally important to the Chiefs, since Shula's double zone coverage effectively blunted the Kansas City wide receivers, Otis Taylor and Elmo Wright. KC took the lead again at the start of the second half, grinding out a touchdown. Miami matched it and the score was 17-17 going into the fourth quarter.

With six and a half minutes to play, Kansas City's defense tried to cling to a 24-17 lead. It couldn't. Griese started the tying drive with a 13-yard pass to Fleming. He ended it by scrambling from a strong rush and firing a five-yard touchdown toss to Fleming.

Podolak returned the next kickoff 78 yards, but then something startling happened. Jan Stenerud, a hero of the Chiefs' Super Bowl victory and one of the great kickers in NFL history, failed. A 32-yard field goal was routine for him. But this 32-yarder went wide to the right.

Overtime.

Stenerud would be haunted again. Podolak returned the extra-period kickoff to the 46 of the Chiefs. Stenerud tried a 42-yarder. Dolphin middle linebacker Nick Buoniconti blocked it. Miami got close enough for a 52-yard field goal attempt by Garo Yepremian. It was short.

For the first time ever, a sixth period was needed. The teams would not only be playing each other but also would be pitted against bone-wearing, brain-numbing exhaustion.

It was just that sort of fatigue and lack of instant reaction which the Dolphins counted on when they called one last trick play for their stymied running game. There was to be flow of action to the right. As the Chiefs' defense moved in that direction, in pursuit of Griese and halfback Jim Kiick, the ball was slipped to Csonka against the flow. He burst to the Kansas City 36, a 29-yard run under the burden of exhaustion. Four plays later, Yepremian and Karl Noonan, his holder, jogged on the field. The ball was placed on the 37.

"As soon as I kicked it, I knew," said Yepremian.

Eighty-two minutes, 40 seconds after the game began, Miami was a 27-24 winner.

Field-goal kickers usually decide "sudden death." There have been 63 regular-season and postseason overtime games, starting with the Colts-Giants classic. Of those, 40 were decided by field goals, 19 by touchdowns. Four regular-season games ended in ties, with no scoring. That can't happen in postseason play. The teams just go on until a conclusion is reached.

The most unusual game ever decided by a field-goal kicker was the Green Bay Packers' triumph over Chicago on opening day last season. The unusual aspect is that it did not involve a field goal. The Packers had been nearly impotent offensively going into the extra period of that game. They had not scored a touchdown in their last three preseason games and the four quarters of the opener. Only Chester Marcol's two field goals make the extra period possible.

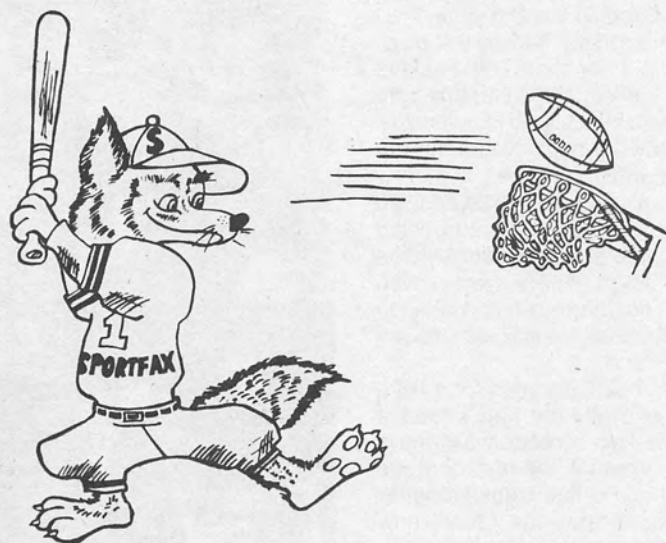
With six minutes expired in the overtime, Marcol lined up to try the field goal which would win it for the Pack. As he moved toward the ball, Alan Page, the Bears' ageless defensive tackle, moved toward him. Page soared and blocked the kick squarely. That was the bad news for Green Bay.

The good news was that the ball rebounded directly into Mar-

Johnny Unitas directed the Colts to a 23-17 overtime victory over the Giants in the 1958 NFL championship.

continued





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Exciting moments in overtime

col's ample belly. Chester grasped it firmly, turned his body to the left and ran as fast as he could. It was fast enough, since no Bear was anywhere in the area. The other Packers and their coach, Bart Starr, swarmed upon Marcol in the end zone.

"This is probably the biggest moment in my life," said Marcol.

Everything went downhill for him after that. The Packers released him during the season. He caught on briefly with Houston and recovered momentarily to beat his old team and his nemesis, Starr, late in the season, but during the winter his admitted alcoholism got him in trouble with the police.

Then there was the game which was supposed to be decided by a field goal, but instead was decided by a surprising touchdown. It came in the second game of the season, with the Oakland Raiders playing at San Diego. There were seven minutes remaining in the overtime. The Chargers had pushed to the Raider 24-yard line, but Oakland's defense stiffened and San Diego was confronted by third down and 11.

Don Coryell, the Chargers' head coach, signaled for a field-goal attempt by Rolf Benirschke, who already had kicked a 52-yarder—a Charger record and the 16th consecutive game in which he kicked a field goal, second-best in the history of the NFL. But Coryell is not considered one of the league's better sideline coaches and offensive coordinator Joe Gibbs, now Washington's head coach, overruled his boss.

Gibbs sent in a pass play. Quarterback Dan Fouts reared back and fired to John Jefferson, who made the catch while facing a blinding sun. Jefferson fell on the one-yard line, and when Raider cornerback Lester Hayes failed to touch him, just rolled into the end zone for the winning points.

"I couldn't see him because the sun blurred my vision," said Hayes. "I couldn't believe that they would throw the ball to him. I was all over him."

Despite such dramatic results, there is a continuing argument in pro football that the overtime rules be altered, that each team be given at least one chance to possess the football. If such a rule had been in existence in 1980, then the Detroit Lions would have lined up to receive the next kickoff after Dave Williams stunned them last Thanksgiving Day.

That, of course, would lead teams to elect to kick off after they won the coin toss which starts overtime. By kicking off, they would then know exactly how to conduct their offense as a result of how the opposition did on its possession:

(1) If the opposition did not score at all, then your team would be free to follow any course it liked.

(2) If the opposition scored on a field goal, then you would be more conservative, knowing your own field goal would win additional time.

(3) If the opposition scored a touchdown, then you would know that daring was the only course for you.

In the 58 overtime games which have taken place during the regular season since the rule was passed, this is what happened: In 39 games, both teams had at least one possession.

In 19 games, the team which won the toss drove for the winning score. In 13 cases it was a field goal, in 6 cases a touchdown.

In 29 games, the team which won the toss won the game.

In 25 games, the team which lost the toss won the game.

37 games were decided by field goals.

17 games were decided by touchdowns.

Four games remained tied.

In all five postseason overtime games, both teams had at least one possession.

It seems like a good idea to leave overtime alone.

Alan Ameche had Colts' winning TD in 1958 title game; Chicago's Dave Williams and Green Bay's Chester Marcol settled two 1981 overtime contests with touchdowns.



If You haven't heard of DANNY SHERIDAN, you've been dead for six years!

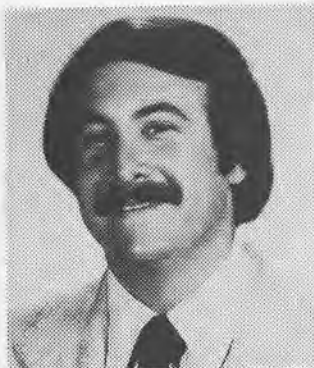
The reason for all of Danny's National Publicity is his uncanny ability to accurately predict the outcomes of College & Pro Football games from 1964 through 1980. For the past three Football Seasons (52 weekends), Danny's Newsletter has beaten the Las Vegas point spread **42** weekends, lost 8 weekends and tied 2.

Danny's 1978 Newsletter won **15** of **18** weekends, while averaging **76%** versus the spread on **all** of his College & Pro picks during those winning 15 weekends. In 1979 Danny again shocked the Football World, as his **documented** National Newsletter won **16** of **18** weekends versus the spread, while averaging **70%** versus the spread on **ALL** his College & Pro picks during the regular season, and **66%** versus the spread during the post season playoffs. **NO ONE** in the history of Football Handicapping **has ever** won 16 of 18 weekends and averaged **70%** versus the spread during **any** football season, and **all** of Danny's sensational **1979** results are **documented**. From September 1, 1980 through December 26, 1980, Danny's Newsletter won 11 weekends versus the spread, lost 3 weekends, and tied 2.

Danny's 1981 Newsletter will consist of his opinion versus the Las Vegas Spread on his favorite **4-7 College & Pro** games each weekend. **All** of Danny's Clients receive the **same** 4-7 College & Pro picks every Friday by Special Delivery mail, as Danny is the only one who is **honest** and **accurate** enough to put all his picks in print.

In case you missed it, Danny appeared again on **NBC's TOMORROW SHOW** on **January 22, 1981** and **March 28, 1981**. Danny was also on **NBC's TOMORROW SHOW**, hosted by Tom Snyder, on Thursday Night **October 19, 1978**, where he was asked to pick his 5 top Pro games vs. spread for that weekend. He responded in front of a National TV audience by correctly predicting **4** of **5** (**80%** vs. spread). Danny also astonished a National TV audience with his pointspread accuracy 4 years ago on **NBC's TOMORROW SHOW** (**Oct. 14, 1975**) by correctly picking **6** of **7** of his top picks (**86%**), plus **17** of **19** versus the spread that same weekend. Danny's pointspread results were announced by Tom Snyder on October 20, 1975 & October 23, 1978, which was the Monday after each of Danny's successful National TV appearances.

During the 1977 Football Season, Danny was the **ONLY** Football Prognosticator to be **featured weekly** on Network TV.



During the 1977 season, **NBC** used a robot named "Statz". **CBS** had Jimmy The Greek who analyzed games - not predict them, but **ABC's GOOD MORNING SHOW** hosted by David Hartman, had Danny on **every Friday** predicting College & Pro football weekend games from October 7 - December 26, 1977. On the **ABC-TV SHOW** Danny averaged an unbelievable **66%** winning average and that was while picking mostly upsets (results announced on the air Dec. 26, 1977). Plus on the **ABC-TV National Show**, Danny picked **every Monday**

Night Pro game correctly (vs. spread) and also predicted **7** winners out of **8** (vs. spread) during the **Big 1977 Thanksgiving Weekend games** for a National audience! Plus Danny's Newsletter was **75%** versus the spread during the **1978 Thanksgiving Weekend**, and **80%** versus the spread during the **1979 and 1980 big Thanksgiving Weekends!**

Space does not permit the listing of every National TV & Radio Show or every major Newspaper & Magazine article that featured **Danny's accuracy** in 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, & 1981, but if you would like them please call or write our office. Besides **ABC & NBC-TV**, some are: Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Esquire Magazine, Football News, Sports Illustrated, Pro Football Weekly, Penthouse, Playboy, etc.

Danny's **sensational 70%** accuracy versus the spread was featured in the December 1979 Issue of **PLAYBOY MAGAZINE** (page 235, "Betting the NFL").

There was a thorough objective research done on the fraudulent practices of many football touts entitled "**Tips on Touts**" which appeared in **ESQUIRE MAGAZINE**. The article points out that "**unlike Danny Sheridan**, some (touts) appear to be either flat-out crooks, slightly shady types, or terrible liars." For a copy of this objective article "**Tips on Touts**", write or call our office. It could save you money, as the author suggests.

Confused by countless ads in this magazine?? Ask yourself why Danny Sheridan has been the **only** Football Prognosticator **honest and accurate enough** to appear on Network Television every year.

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1981

National Football League Schedule

Saturday, September 5
Minnesota at Tampa Bay (N)
Sunday, September 6
Baltimore at New England
Dallas at Washington
Green Bay at Chicago
Houston at Los Angeles
Kansas City at Pittsburgh
Miami at St. Louis
New Orleans at Atlanta
New York Jets at Buffalo
Oakland at Denver
Philadelphia at New York Giants
San Francisco at Detroit
Seattle at Cincinnati
Monday, September 7
San Diego at Cleveland (N)
Thursday, September 10
Pittsburgh at Miami (N)
Sunday, September 13
Atlanta at Green Bay
Buffalo at Baltimore
Chicago at San Francisco
Cincinnati at New York Jets
Denver at Seattle
Detroit at San Diego
Houston at Cleveland
Los Angeles at New Orleans
New England at Philadelphia
New York Giants at Washington
St. Louis at Dallas
Tampa Bay at Kansas City
Monday, September 14
Oakland at Minnesota (N)
Thursday, September 17
Philadelphia at Buffalo (N)
Sunday, September 20
Baltimore at Denver
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Detroit at Minnesota
Green Bay at Los Angeles
Miami at Houston
New Orleans at New York Giants
New York Jets at Pittsburgh
San Diego at Kansas City
San Francisco at Atlanta
Seattle at Oakland
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Washington at St. Louis
Monday, September 21
Dallas at New England (N)
Sunday, September 27
Atlanta at Cleveland
Buffalo at Cincinnati
Houston at New York Jets
Kansas City at Seattle
Miami at Baltimore
Minnesota vs Green Bay (Milw.)
New England at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at San Francisco
New York Giants at Dallas
Oakland at Detroit
St. Louis at Tampa Bay
San Diego at Denver
Washington at Philadelphia
Monday, September 28
Los Angeles at Chicago (N)
Sunday, October 4
Baltimore at Buffalo
Chicago at Minnesota
Cincinnati at Houston
Cleveland at Los Angeles
Dallas at St. Louis
Denver at Oakland
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at New York Giants
Kansas City at New England
New York Jets at Miami
Pittsburgh at New Orleans
San Francisco at Washington
Seattle at San Diego
Monday, October 5
Atlanta at Philadelphia (N)
Sunday, October 11
Cincinnati at Baltimore
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Dallas at San Francisco
Detroit at Denver
Los Angeles at Atlanta
Minnesota at San Diego
New England at New York Jets
Oakland at Kansas City
Philadelphia at New Orleans
St. Louis at New York Giants
Seattle at Houston

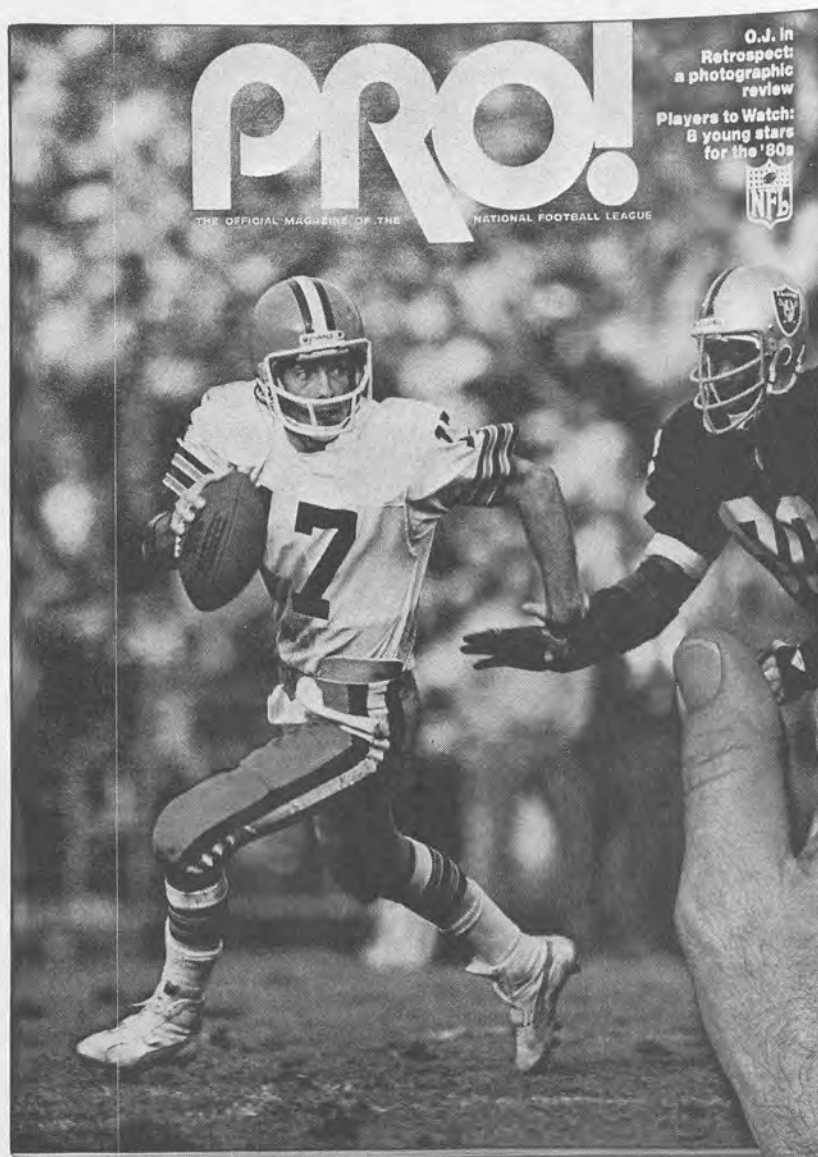
Tampa Bay at Green Bay
Washington at Chicago
Monday, October 12
Miami at Buffalo (N)
Sunday, October 18
Buffalo at New York Jets
Denver at Kansas City
Houston at New England
Los Angeles at Dallas (N)
New Orleans at Cleveland
New York Giants at Seattle
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
St. Louis at Atlanta
San Diego at Baltimore
San Francisco vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
Tampa Bay at Oakland
Washington at Miami
Monday, October 19
Chicago at Detroit (N)
Sunday, October 25
Baltimore at Cleveland
Cincinnati at New Orleans
Denver at Buffalo
Green Bay at Detroit
Kansas City at Oakland
Los Angeles at San Francisco
Miami at Dallas
Minnesota at St. Louis
New England at Washington
New York Giants at Atlanta
San Diego at Chicago
Seattle at New York Jets
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia
Monday, October 26
Houston at Pittsburgh (N)
Sunday, November 1
Atlanta at New Orleans
Baltimore at Miami
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at Buffalo
Dallas at Philadelphia
Detroit at Los Angeles
Houston at Cincinnati
Kansas City at San Diego
New England at Oakland
New York Jets at New York Giants
St. Louis at Washington
San Francisco at Pittsburgh
Seattle at Green Bay
Monday, November 2
Minnesota at Denver (N)
Sunday, November 8
Atlanta at San Francisco
Chicago at Kansas City
Cincinnati at San Diego
Cleveland at Denver
Detroit at Washington
Miami at New England
New Orleans at Los Angeles
New York Giants vs Green Bay (Milw.)
New York Jets at Baltimore
Oakland at Houston
Philadelphia at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at Seattle
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Monday, November 9
Buffalo at Dallas (N)
Sunday, November 15
Baltimore at Philadelphia
Buffalo at St. Louis
Chicago at Green Bay
Cleveland at San Francisco
Dallas at Detroit
Denver at Tampa Bay
Houston at Kansas City
Los Angeles at Cincinnati
New Orleans at Minnesota
New York Jets at New England
Oakland at Miami
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Washington at New York Giants
Monday, November 16
San Diego at Seattle (N)
Sunday, November 22
Denver at Cincinnati
Detroit at Chicago
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
Miami at New York Jets
New England at Buffalo
New Orleans at Houston
New York Giants at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
St. Louis at Baltimore
San Diego at Oakland

San Francisco at Los Angeles
Seattle at Kansas City
Washington at Dallas
Monday, November 23
Minnesota at Atlanta (N)
Thursday, November 26
Chicago at Dallas
Kansas City at Detroit
Sunday, November 29
Atlanta at Houston
Baltimore at New York Jets
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Denver at San Diego
Green Bay at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh
New York Giants at San Francisco
Oakland at Seattle
St. Louis at New England
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Washington at Buffalo
Monday, November 30
Philadelphia at Miami (N)
Thursday, December 3
Cleveland at Houston (N)
Sunday, December 6
Atlanta at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at San Diego
Dallas at Baltimore
Detroit at Green Bay
Kansas City at Denver
Los Angeles at New York Giants
Minnesota at Chicago
New England at Miami
New Orleans at St. Louis
New York Jets at Seattle
Philadelphia at Washington
San Francisco at Cincinnati
Monday, December 7
Pittsburgh at Oakland (N)
Saturday, December 12
Minnesota at Detroit
New York Jets at Cleveland
Sunday, December 13
Baltimore at Washington
Buffalo at New England
Chicago at Oakland
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Green Bay at New Orleans
Houston at San Francisco
Miami at Kansas City
New York Giants at St. Louis
Philadelphia at Dallas
San Diego at Tampa Bay
Seattle at Denver
Monday, December 14
Atlanta at Los Angeles (N)
Saturday, December 19
Miami at Dallas
Dallas at New York Giants
Sunday, December 20
Cincinnati at Atlanta
Cleveland at Seattle
Denver at Chicago
Green Bay at New York Jets
Kansas City at Minnesota
New England at Baltimore
Pittsburgh at Houston
St. Louis at Philadelphia
San Francisco at New Orleans
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Washington at Los Angeles
Monday, December 21
Oakland at San Diego (N)

POSTSEASON

Sunday, December 27
NFL First Round Playoffs
Saturday, January 2
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs
Sunday, January 3
AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs
Sunday, January 10
AFC Championship Game
NFC Championship Game
Sunday, January 24
Super Bowl XVI at Silverdome, Pontiac, Mich.
Sunday, January 31
AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Honolulu, Hawaii

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PREDICTIONS

WEST

1. San Diego Chargers
2. Oakland Raiders
3. Kansas City Chiefs
4. Denver Broncos
5. Seattle Seahawks

CENTRAL

1. Pittsburgh Steelers
2. Cleveland Browns
3. Houston Oilers
4. Cincinnati Bengals

EAST

1. Buffalo Bills
2. New England Patriots
3. Miami Dolphins
4. Baltimore Colts
5. New York Jets

Fouts

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

● It was the start of another decade, but a decade which started no worse than it ended for the American Football Conference. There was another Super Bowl victory, this time an out-and-out laugher; there was another season of domination in the interconference series; and there was continuing frustration in the rival National Conference.

"Tramps," is what Tex Schramm, major domo of the Dallas Cowboys, called the Oakland Raiders on his radio show. "Historically," continued Tex, "Oakland has had its share of people I wouldn't want on my football team."

Schramm is considered one of the sharpest, smoothest, smartest operators in pro sports. So how could he be so indiscreet as to say something like that? Easy, it was frustration talking; pure, vein-bursting frustration. Call them tramps, bums, rogues, thieves, anything you would care to call them, but the Oakland Raiders call themselves champions of professional football.

The irony is that the Raiders weren't even champs of one of the AFC's three divisions. They got in on a wild-card pass, but once they got in they clawed their way past their AFC playoff opposition.

The Super Bowl was almost embarrassingly easy for the Raiders. It was almost a door prize. It was over quicker than even the first two Super Bowls, when the Green Bay Packers of the late Vince Lombardi scored one-sided victories over Kansas City and Oakland.

The season series between the two conferences was not as one-sided as the 36-16 record of 1979, but almost. It ended up 33-19 in 1980. In the last three years the AFC advantage is 100-56. The Super Bowl count is now 11-4, but an even more embarrassing 11-2 after Green Bay's opening volleys. Dallas is the only other NFC team to have won the Super Bowl. Six teams from the AFC—New York, Kansas City, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Miami, and Oakland—won on Super Sunday.

This season should see a seventh candidate representing the AFC in Super Bowl XVI in the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich. That's the San Diego Chargers, who can be an awesome blend of air circus and rugged defense. The key words are "can be," since the Chargers, despite all their talent, have blanked out in important games during the last few years when they rose to power under coach Don Coryell.

by **LARRY FELSER**

BUFFALO NEWS

But the 1981 Chargers seem stronger in several respects. For one thing, their offense is no longer one-dimensional. They traded for running star Chuck Muncie last October. He helped them and, with a training camp to fully integrate him into the Coryell system, he should be even more helpful in 1981. For another thing, they drafted James Brooks, the explosive little running back from Auburn. The Chargers have the depth to use him in selected situations. That could produce some big plays to mix with the other big plays quarterback Dan Fouts orchestrates with his fabulous receivers, John Jefferson, Charlie Joiner, and Kellen Winslow.

Defensively, the reinforcement comes from Coryell's adding Jack Pardee, former head coach at Washington and Chicago, to his staff as defensive coordinator. Pardee will command his players' complete attention.

Oakland? The Raiders are likely to get into the playoffs on a wild-card pass again. Once there, it's impossible to predict what they will do. (It is possible that the prophets of preseason will make the same sort of mistake with the Pittsburgh Steelers this season which they made with Oakland in 1980.)

It was before last season that the funeral dirges were played for the Raider era. Oakland was supposed to be a team grown old. Al Davis, who had made it the most victorious team in football over the last 15 years, was accused of failing to nurture the team with good drafts. So Davis did unlikely things and found players in unlikely places. Tom Flores then coached them to the Super Bowl title.

Pittsburgh is in a similar, creaking condition. The Steelers failed to make the playoffs last



Coryell



Campbell

STREET & SMITH'S 1981 ALL-AFC TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Dan Fouts, *San Diego*
Running Back—Earl Campbell, *Houston*
Running Back—Curtis Dickey, *Baltimore*
Wide Receiver—John Jefferson, *San Diego*
Wide Receiver—Jerry Butler, *Buffalo*
Tight End—Kellen Winslow, *San Diego*
Tackle—Anthony Munoz, *Cincinnati*
Tackle—Ken Jones, *Buffalo*
Guard—John Hannah, *New England*
Guard—Joe DeLamielleure, *Cleveland*
Center—Bill Bryan, *Denver*
Place-kicker—Nick Lowery, *Kansas City*

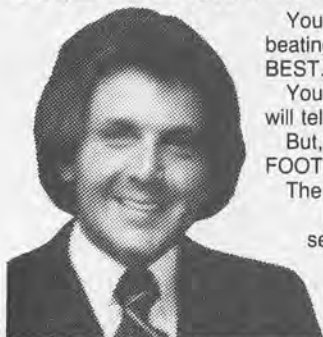
DEFENSE

End—Art Still, *Kansas City*
End—Dave Browning, *Oakland*
Nose Tackle—Fred Smerlas, *Buffalo*
Outside Linebacker—Robert Brazile, *Houston*
Outside Linebacker—Ted Hendricks, *Oakland*
Inside Linebacker—Jack Lambert, *Pittsburgh*
Inside Linebacker—Matt Millen, *Oakland*
Cornerback—Lester Hayes, *Oakland*
Cornerback—Michael Haynes, *New England*
Free Safety—Jeff Nixon, *Buffalo*
Strong Safety—Bruce Laird, *Baltimore*
Punter—Ray Guy, *Oakland*

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Nathan Young
Honolulu, HI

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Lloyd Lowery
Juniata, NE

"Have tried others but Mike Warren's no nonsense All Pro Football Forecast really delivers."

Stephen Mandell
Warwick, RI

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SERVICE	%
1. MIKE WARREN SPORTS	625
2. Second Best Service	611
3. Third Best Service	555
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5. Fifth Best Service	537
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7. Seventh Best Service	471
8. Eighth Best Service	468
9. Ninth Best Service	466
10. Tenth Best Service	454
11. Eleventh Best Service	440
12. Twelfth Best Service	428
13. Thirteenth Best Service	263
14. Fourteenth Best Service	260

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season. Funeral dirges are being played for them now, too, but they have enough of a nucleus to reclaim the championship of the AFC Central.

Buffalo was the fourth division champion in the AFC in the last four years, and the Bills seem to have enough to repeat—as long as the New England Patriots continue to play below their abilities.

There are two new coaches in the AFC this season, both of them on teams which have become accustomed to winning and impatient with anything less than a serious stab at the Super Bowl.

Bum Phillips was fired by Houston's volatile owner, Bud Adams, after he failed to "kick down the door" into the Super Bowl as he promised. He was replaced by Ed Biles, the team's highly successful defensive coordinator.

A even bigger shock occurred in Denver, where Red Miller had assumed command in 1977 and led the Broncos to their first playoff appearances, first Super Bowl, and most successful years. The team was sold to Edgar Kaiser, a younger business tycoon, in February and he quickly fired Miller, replacing him with Dan Reeves, the Dallas Cowboys' offensive coordinator.

There were two new coaches last year, too, Forrest Gregg in Cincinnati and Mike McCormack in Baltimore. Both got good marks for putting their downtrodden teams back on the road toward improvement. The most nervous of this year's batch are Walt Michaels in New York, Ron Erhardt in New England, and Marv Levy in Kansas City. Biles could be added because of Adams' mercurial nature.

There were few significant trades this year (unlike 1980, which saw some bombshell deals). The most notable was Miami's acquisition of linebacker Bob Brudzinski from Los Angeles for

high draft choices. Denver attempted to juice up its running game by dealing for Tony Reed, the Kansas City halfback. Cleveland, seeking a new partner for fullback Mike Pruitt, traded with Buffalo for Terry Miller, who had two straight disappointing seasons for the Bills. Buffalo, in turn, dealt for Browns' punter Johnny Evans.

There could be some quarterback changes in the conference. The Denver job is up in the air under Reeves. Steve Grogan and Matt Cavanaugh fight it out in New England. The Bengals say they'll go with a healed Ken Anderson, but Jack Thompson played better in 1980. Gifford Nielsen looms in the background as Ken Stabler's career fades in Houston.

Nine of the AFC's 15 first-round draft picks were used for offensive players, five of them running backs: Freeman McNeil in New York, Randy McMillan in Baltimore, David Overstreet in Miami, James Brooks in San Diego, and Booker Moore in Buffalo. Four of the six defensive players were backs, underlying the changing nature of the NFL's burgeoning passing game. The four are Dennis Smith of Denver, Ken Easley of Seattle, Hanford Dixon of Cleveland, and Ted Watts of Oakland.

It was not a good year for senior quarterbacks. Only five were drafted high and the NFC picked off the top two, Rich Campbell (Green Bay) and Neil Lomax (St. Louis). But the AFC took two of the three picked in round four: Mark Herrmann by Denver and Bart Wright by Miami.

It's notable that four of the five AFC playoff teams—Oakland, Cleveland, Houston, and Buffalo—employ the 3-4. Of the conference's

14 teams, 11 use the college-type defense.

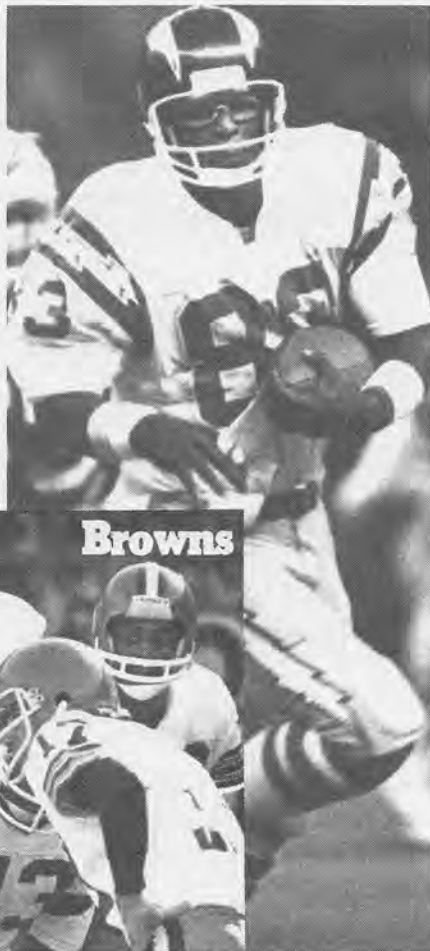
Buffalo converted to the shotgun offense in obvious passing situations last year and led the NFL in both third-down conversion percentage and in protecting the passer. Understandably, there will be imitators. Reeves will use it in Denver and Cincinnati will employ it occasionally. Tampa Bay and Philadelphia are following the trend in the NFC. The Bills patterned theirs after Dallas's.

The AFC had both the league offensive champion, San Diego, and the defensive champ, Buffalo. Of the nine important individual statistical titles in the NFL, AFC players won all but two. Earl Campbell of Houston was ground-gaining leader for the third consecutive season; John Smith of New England was the top scorer; Kellen Winslow of San Diego led in receptions with 89, and his teammate, John Jefferson, had the most reception yardage, 1,340. Oakland's Lester Hayes led in interceptions, Kansas City's J.T. Smith in punt returns, and New England's Horace Ivory in kickoff returns.

Here is what some of the 1981 individual championships and awards should look like:

- Ground-gaining: Campbell
- Passing: Dan Fouts, San Diego
- Pass receiving: Jefferson
- Scoring: Fred Steinfort, Denver place-kicker
- Punt returns: J.T. Smith
- Kickoff returns: James Brooks, San Diego
- Punting: Ray Guy, Oakland
- Interceptions: Jeff Nixon, Buffalo
- Offensive rookie of the year: Cris Collinsworth, Cincinnati wide receiver
- Defensive rookie of the year: Ken Easley, Seattle safety
- Most valuable player: Jefferson
- Coach of the year: Chuck Noll, Pittsburgh

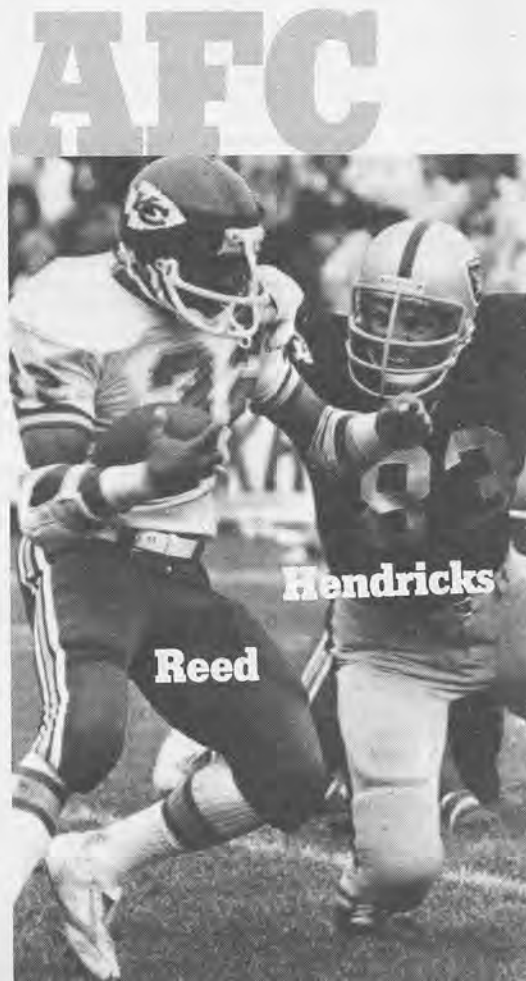
Brudzinski



Browns



Jefferson



Hendricks

Reed

AFC West



SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

The Chargers in the Super Bowl? Why not? This is the era of the big play, and no one plays it better than San Diego. The Chargers do most of the other stuff well, too.

It used to be said that the Chargers were too one-dimensional; that if you stopped their passing, they were stuck for an answer. But even that seems fixed. Early last season, they traded for Chuck Muncie and that talented big back averaged 4.9 yards on his 135 carries in a San Diego uniform. If he doesn't lose interest this season, he could be even better once he becomes completely accustomed to the system.

Then there was the Chargers' first pick in the draft, James Brooks, the Auburn halfback. Little guy. Very little. Some say too little to be a first-round draft choice. Perhaps for most teams. But the Chargers can make that kind of a risky pick. Brooks can do for them what Terry Metcalf used to do for Don Coryell when he coached St. Louis. The beauty part is that if Muncie does stay interested, Brooks only has to play part of the time.

How good is Brooks? Good enough so that Joe Cribbs was forced to switch to fullback in his senior year at Auburn so that Brooks could be used in the same backfield. Cribbs was the AFC rookie of the year in 1980 and one of the principal reasons Buffalo rose from mediocrity to win the championship of the AFC East.

Brooks has much more to complement him in San Diego than Cribbs has in Buffalo. To go along with Muncie and Brooks, the Chargers also have ex-Redskin star Mike Thomas, John Cappelletti, Clarence Williams, all one-time starters, and another high draft choice, Amos Lawrence of North Carolina.

Five of the Chargers' offensive stars were on the AFC's Pro Bowl squad. Start with Dan Fouts, who passed for an NFL record 4,715 yards. It was his own record which he broke. His 348 completions and 589 attempts also were league marks. Fouts had eight 300-yard games, breaking his two-year-old record of six such games. He is a load for any pass defense.

All three of his receivers made the Pro Bowl. John Jefferson became the first NFL receiver to catch 1,000 yards worth of passes in his first three seasons. What he does is Hall of Fame stuff. His stats were 82 catches for 1,340 yards and 13 touchdowns, but it goes far beyond that.

Charlie Joiner, who has been a top player for 13 years, caught 71 balls for 1,132 yards. In

1980, Coryell unleashed a new weapon upon the NFL when he made full use of young tight end Kellen Winslow, who caught 89 passes, the most ever by an NFL tight end. Winslow's total of 1,290 yards marked the first time in 13 years a tight end had gone over 1,000 yards. He also caught nine touchdown passes. The way he moves his 252 pounds through a secondary creates a unique challenge for the league's defensive coordinators.

John Floyd and Ron Smith, who put the Chargers in the NFL title game with a dramatic TD catch against the Bills, are reliable backups. Arkansas wide receiver Bobby Duckworth was a sixth-round draft pick.

When Greg McCrary got hurt against the Bills in the playoff game, it cramped the Chargers' versatile offense, since Coryell often uses two tight ends. To protect against that, Tennessee's Eric Seivers was drafted.

If the attack has a serious weakness it is the offensive line. There is loads of talent there, but it is aged to the point where it is getting creaky. The main worry is whether Russ Washington, who tore up his knee last October, will recover fully at the age of 34. Washington never missed a game prior to that injury, so there is no past performance sheet by which to judge his recuperative powers. To insure against his loss, the Chargers swapped Wilbur Young to Washington for Jeff Williams.

Guard Doug Wilkerson made the Pro Bowl last January and his partner, Ed White, made it in the past. But both are 34. The question is, how much experience is too much? The other starters, tackle Billy Shields and center Don

Macek, are younger veterans. So are subs Bob Rush, Ralph Perretta, and Chuck Loewen.

Defensively, three quarters of the Chargers' four-man line made the Pro Bowl: tackles Louie Kelcher and Gary Johnson and end Fred Dean. The biggest statistic defensively is that incredible sack total: 60, best in the NFL. Everywhere you look on defense, the Chargers have veterans. But yet.

They surrendered 40 points to Washington.

They gave up 42 to Dallas.

They were stung by Oakland for 38 in their first meeting.

Then, in the embarrassing, 34-27 loss to the Raiders in the AFC title game right in San Diego, they coughed up 21 quick points in the first quarter. That decided the game. There were too many thunderbolts: a 65-yarder, a 49-yarder, another 21-yard touchdown pass. Good defenses don't give up that deep stuff in big games as San Diego did.

When the pass rushers, Dean, Kelcher, Johnson, and the other end, Leroy Jones, were stopped, too often the rest of the San Diego defense became helpless. Several teams considered left-side linebacker Ray Preston a pigeon on pass defense and went after him accordingly, with more than mild success. Unless rookie Keith Ferguson of Ohio State is ready to play right away, Preston will start again. Linden King, switched from strong safety last year, didn't look as if he was ready to contribute yet.

The right-side linebacker, Woodrow Lowe, is small, but he has been a good player for several years. Bob Horn is not the most mobile middle linebacker around, but he's a tough hitter. The subs, Cliff Thrift and Carl McGee, don't have much experience. Jim Laslavic does, but he lost his starting job due to lack of speed.

The secondary is another experienced group, although the only aged starter is free safety Glen Edwards, 34, who had one of his best seasons in 1980. Corner Willie Buchanon improved in his second season with the Chargers. Mike Williams is steady on the other side. Pete Shaw started most of last season at strong safety, but when he was injured late in the year, Mike Fuller reclaimed his old job and played through the playoffs.

The defense could benefit heavily by the addition of Jack Pardee, former head coach of the Washington Redskins and Chicago Bears, as defensive coordinator. There were several coaching changes. Jim Wagstaff, who earned a glowing reputation with the Buffalo Bills and, before that, with the Los Angeles Rams, will coach the secondary. He replaces Larrye Weaver, who moves over as offensive coordinator, replacing Joe Gibbs, who, ironically, replaced Pardee as the Redskins' head coach. The musical chairs routine could give the Chargers just the extra zip that they need.

The draft included some other possibilities,

San Diego Chargers: defensive coordinator Jack Pardee (top left), DT Louis Kelcher (top right), Chuck Muncie, Charlie Joiner, John Jefferson, and John Cappelletti

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Benirschke, 118 points on 24 field goals and 46 PAT's... 2nd
RUSHING—Muncie, 175 carries for 827 yards, 4.7 avg... 6 TD's... 5th
PASSING—Fouts, 348 of 589 attempts for 4,715 yards, 30 TD's... 2nd
RECEIVING—Winslow, 89 receptions for 1,290 yards, 14.5 avg... 9 TD's... 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Edwards, 5 for 122 yards, 24.4 avg... 1 TD... 15th
PUNTING—Partridge, 60 punts, 39.1 avg., longest 55 yards... 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Fuller, 30 for 298 yards, 9.9 avg... 4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Muncie, 16 for 344 yards, 21.5 avg... 11th

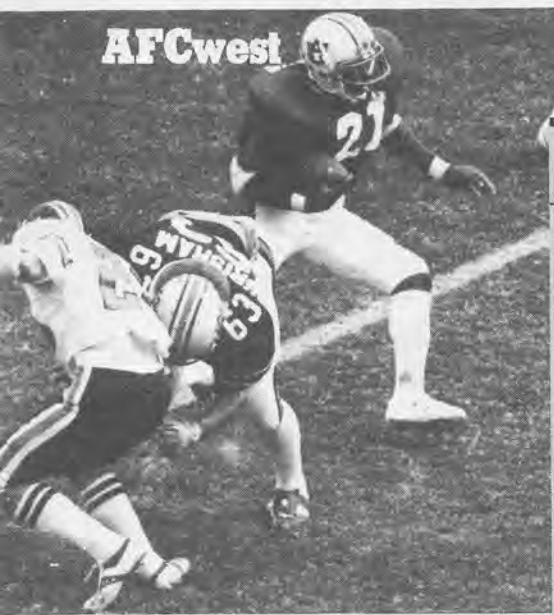
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 ST. LOUIS (N)
15 At San Francisco (N)
21 LOS ANGELES (N)
28 BUFFALO (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

Month	Game	Score
September	7 At Cleveland (N)	—
	13 DETROIT	—
	20 At Kansas City	24-7
October	27 At Denver	30-13
	4 SEATTLE	21-14
	11 MINNESOTA	—
	18 At Baltimore	—
November	25 At Chicago	—
	1 KANSAS CITY	20-7
	8 CINCINNATI	31-14
	16 At Seattle (N)	34-13
	22 At Oakland	24-38
December	29 DENVER	13-20
	6 BUFFALO	24-26
	13 At Tampa Bay	—
	21 OAKLAND (N)	(OT) 30-24





CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

				NFL	
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age exp college
60	Audick, Dan	OL	6-3	253	27 4 Hawaii
37	Bauer, Hank	RB	5-11	200	27 5 Cal Lutheran
6	Benirschke, Rolf	K	6-1	175	26 5 Cal.-Davis
82	Brooks, Billy	WR	6-3	202	28 4 Oklahoma
28	Buchanan, Willie	CB	6-1	185	31 10 San Diego St.
25	Cappelletti, John	RB	6-1	220	29 7 Penn St.
71	Dean, Fred	DE	6-2	230	29 7 La. Tech.
73	DeJurnett, Charles	DT	6-4	260	29 6 San Jose St.
47	Duncan, Frank	SS	6-1	188	25 3 San Fran. St.
27	Edwards, Glen	FS	6-0	183	34 11 Florida A&M
86	Floyd, John	WR	6-1	195	25 3 NE La.
14	Fouts, Dan	QB	6-3	210	30 9 Oregon
42	Fuller, Mike	SS	5-9	182	28 7 Auburn
34	Harrington, LaRue	RB	6-0	210	24 2 Norfolk St.
12	Harris, James	QB	6-3	221	34 12 Grambling
55	Horn, Bob	LB	6-4	230	27 6 Oregon St.
26	Jackson, Bernard	S	6-0	180	31 10 Wash. St.
83	Jefferson, John	WR	6-1	198	25 4 Arizona St.
79	Johnson, Gary	DT	6-3	252	28 7 Grambling
18	Joiner, Charlie	WR	5-11	183	34 13 Grambling
68	Jones, Leroy	DE	6-8	260	31 6 Norfolk St.
74	Kelcher, Louie	DT	6-5	282	28 7 SMU
57	King, Linden	LB	6-4	230	26 4 Colorado St.
54	Lastavic, Jim	LB	6-2	236	30 8 Penn St.
69	Lee, John	DE	6-2	259	28 6 Nebraska
64	Loewen, Chuck	OL	6-3	259	24 2 S. Dakota St.
51	Lowe, Woodrow	LB	6-0	227	27 6 Alabama
11	Luther, Ed	QB	6-2	206	24 2 San Jose St.
62	Macek, Don	OL	6-2	253	27 6 Boston College
88	McCrory, Gregg	TE	6-2	235	29 6 Clark
58	McGee, Carl	LB	6-3	228	25 2 Duke
46	Muncie, Chuck	RB	6-3	233	28 6 California
75	Nicholson, Jim	T	6-6	275	32 7 Mich. St.
17	Partridge, Rick	P	6-1	175	24 3 Utah
53	Perretta, Ralph	OL	6-1	251	28 7 Purdue
52	Preston, Ray	LB	6-0	218	27 6 Syracuse
56	Rush, Bob	C	6-5	264	26 5 Memphis St.
41	Russell, Booker	RB	6-2	235	25 4 SW Texas
87	Scales, Dwight	WR	6-2	185	28 5 Grambling
44	Shaw, Pete	S	5-10	178	27 5 Northwestern
66	Shields, Billy	T	6-8	275	28 7 Georgia Tech
84	Smith, Ron	WR	6-0	185	25 4 San Diego St.
45	Stringer, Hal	DB	5-11	182	29 7 Hawaii
22	Thomas, Mike	RB	5-11	190	28 7 Las Vegas
59	Thrift, Cliff	LB	6-2	232	25 3 E. Cent. Okla.
70	Washington, Russ	T	6-7	288	35 14 Missouri
67	White, Ed	G	6-2	271	34 13 California
38	Whittington, C.L.	DB	6-2	195	28 6 Prairie View
63	Wilkerson, Doug	G	6-3	262	34 12 N. C. Central
40	Williams, Clarence	RB	5-10	195	26 5 S. Carolina
29	Williams, Mike	CB	5-10	179	28 7 LSU
80	Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-5	252	24 3 Missouri
16	Wood, Mike	K	5-11	199	27 3 SE Missouri
	Williams, Jeff	OT	6-4	265	26 4 Rhode Island
	Wright, Nate	DB	5-11	180	34 13 San Diego St.

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Brooks, James	RB	5-9	180	23	Auburn
3	Phillips, Irvin	DB	6-1	192	21	Ark. Tech
4	Lawrence, Amos	RB	5-11	179	23	N. Carolina
4	Sievers, Eric	TE	6-4	230	24	Maryland
5	Ferguson, Keith	DE	6-5	231	22	Ohio St.
6	Gissinger, Drew	OT	6-4	271	22	Syracuse
6	Duckworth, Bobby	WR	6-4	198	23	Arkansas
7	Holohan, Pete	TE	6-4	230	22	Notre Dame
9	Mullins, Billy	WR	6-1	190	23	USC
10	Parham, Robert	RB	5-11	223	23	Grambling
11	Petrzelka, Matt	OT	6-6	254	23	Iowa
11	Bradley, Carlos	LB	6-1	221	21	Wake Forest
12	Charles, Stacy	WR	5-10	174	23	Beth-Cookman

primarily Irvin Phillips of Arkansas Tech, who was one of the highly rated defensive backs in the draft. Pete Holohan, who has good speed, played tight end at Notre Dame and could be worked into Coryell's multiple sets.

The Chargers also signed some interesting free agents. The most notable may be wide receiver Billy Brooks, once Cincinnati's No. 1 draftee and a four-year starter for the Bengals. He was released last year after a non-football injury. The Chargers invested time and money in his recovery. He could fly before he got hurt. Other pickups are C.L. Whittington, once Houston's starting strong safety, and wide receiver Dwight Scales.

There is nagging worry over place-kicker Rolf Benirschke, who made such a dramatic comeback from a serious intestinal disorder. Benirschke connected on 24 of 36 field goals, but he suffered a recurrence of his illness last spring. Mike Wood, who was the place-kicker in Benirschke's absence in 1979, was on injured reserve last year due to a groin injury. If Benirschke can't shake his illness, Wood might end up with both the place-kicking and punting jobs, since Rick Partridge had a so-so year in the latter category.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

There really isn't much of a case which can be made for Oakland to repeat as Super Bowl Champions. Or, for that matter, to make the playoffs again. But who can figure the Raiders? They are a venture into the unknown. There are dozens of good reasons they can't do what they do, but they do it. If that is hard to follow, so are the Raiders. Consider last season's impediments:

Kenny Stabler, their spiritual leader, was banished.

Dan Pastorini, whom they obtained from Houston in the trade for Stabler, was a flop.

The Raiders weren't supposed to have a first-rate running back.

Dave Casper, the All-Pro tight end, was banished along with his buddy Stabler.

Their offensive line was too old.

They had to play a rookie who had sketchy linebacking experience at one inside position and a pro football gypsy at the other.

Other odds-and-ends handicaps were that they played two castoffs in their secondary, they had a hole at outside linebacker, and Ted Hendricks was supposed to be over the hill.

So what happened?

Jim Plunkett, whose career was written off four seasons ago, rose from his ashes like the phoenix. Kenny King, whom they acquired from Houston at a bargain rate, gave them some dynamite at running back. Raymond Chester reached back into his prime to provide first-rate tight end play. The offensive line performed well when the money was on the line. The rookie linebacker, Matt Millen, played like a recycled Dick Butkus and the gypsy, Bob Nelson, threw away his clarinet and contributed heavily. The two castoff defensive backs, corner Dwayne O'Steen and free safety Burgess Owens, were found money. The hole at linebacker was filled by Rod Martin, a Super Bowl hero with three interceptions. Hendricks was Superman.

Statistics don't support the Raiders' 1980

No. 1 draft pick James Brooks (top), strong safety Mike Fuller (#42), and tight end Kellen Winslow (#80) give the Chargers a super look.

success story and they don't back up Oakland's claim for 1981. Just look beyond statistics to the big play.

Oakland's push started a third of the way into the season with a victory over San Diego in which King made the big play, running 89 yards for a touchdown in the Raider's winning, fourth-quarter rally. Against Pittsburgh it was Cliff Branch and Plunkett, combining for late touchdown plays of 56 and 34 yards. Against Seattle it was Plunkett and Bob Chandler with three second-half touchdown passes. Against Denver it was Chandler again, with two late touchdown catches.

That's how it went in the playoffs, too. Arthur Whittington combined on a 44-yard pass play with Plunkett against Houston. Mike Davis killed what would have been Cleveland's winning drive with an interception in the end zone. Chester took a deflected pass 65 yards to explode against San Diego. King and Plunkett connected for an 80-yard pass in a desperate spot to blow open the Super Bowl.

Who can predict things like that happening again? Who can chart that course for a second straight season? Who can say whether there will be a reprise for Plunkett alone?

There were eight AFC quarterbacks who ranked ahead of Plunkett in efficiency. There were 12 passers in the NFL who threw for more touchdowns. But Plunkett, like his team, can't

be measured in statistics. The ironic part is that the Raiders picked a quarterback, Marc Wilson, on the first round last year, and they think he has a future. But wouldn't it be like Al Davis, should Plunkett return to mediocrity, to refurbish Pastorini and shove him into the spotlight?

That's another ironic thing about the Raiders. Everything they did last year seemed to reflect on Davis, yet Tom Flores is the coach and he did an excellent job, even though there are substantial reports that Davis considered firing him early in the season.

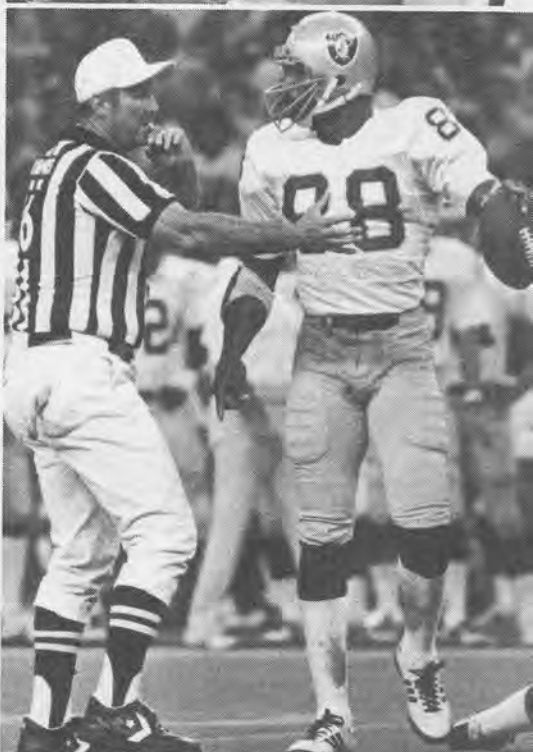
The Raiders seem happy with King and rugged Mark van Eeghen as their runners. No rookie was drafted until late. The veteran backup runners are Derrick Jensen, Todd Christensen, and Whittington.

Chandler made a magnificent comeback after two injury-plagued years with Buffalo, catching a club-leading 49 passes for a 16-yard average and 10 touchdowns. Branch had 44 catches for 19.5 and 7 TD's. Morris Bradshaw is the only sub who played much. He caught six balls for a 22-yard average. Rick Martini has experience. Chester's sub, Derrick Ramsey, averaged 23.4 yards on five catches.

The left side of the offensive line, Gene Upshaw and Art Shell, is ancient. Upshaw is 36, Shell 35. The Raiders used a first-round pick to select Shell's heir, Curt Marsh of Washington, but they bring along linemen slowly, so both those oldies may remain golden for a while. The other starters, center Dave Dalby, guard Mickey Marvin, and tackle Henry Lawrence, are contemporary. Steve Sylvester and Lindsey Mason, the two ranking subs (Sylvester can play guard and center), are experienced.

This is the line which surrendered eight sacks to the Philadelphia Eagles during a loss in the regular season. But when it came to nitty-gritty time in the Super bowl, the Eagles were sealed off almost completely.

Defensively, the Raiders look jerry-built, but



QB Jim Plunkett (below), OT Art Shell (top right), TE Ray Chester (center), and RB Mark van Eeghen (#30) of Oakland Raiders



1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 98 points on 19 field goals and 41 PAT's... 4th
RUSHING—van Eeghen, 222 carries for 838 yards, 3.8 avg., 5 TD's... 4th
PASSING—Plunkett, 165 of 320 attempts for 2,299 yards, 18 TD's... 9th
RECEIVING—Chandler, 49 receptions for 786 yards, 16.0 avg., 10 TD's... 20th
INTERCEPTIONS—Hayes, 13 for 273 yards, 21.0 avg., 1 TD... 1st
PUNTING—Guy, 71 punts, 43.6 avg., longest 66 yards... 2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Matthews, 48 for 421 yards, 8.8 avg... 6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Matthews, 29 for 585 yards, 20.2 avg... 12th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 ATLANTA (N)
15 Green Bay (N at Milwaukee)
23 New England (TBA)
29 SAN FRANCISCO (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 At Denver	24-21
	14 At Minnesota (N)	—
	20 SEATTLE	33-14
	27 At Detroit	—
October	4 DENVER	9-3
	11 At Kansas City	27-14
	18 TAMPA BAY	—
	25 KANSAS CITY	17-31
November	1 NEW ENGLAND	—
	8 At Houston	—
	15 At Miami	16-10
	22 SAN DIEGO	38-24
	29 At Seattle	19-17
December	7 PITTSBURGH (N)	45-34
	13 CHICAGO	—
	21 At San Diego	(OT) 24-30



Oakland defensive end John Matuszak nalls Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw for a loss on this play.

their success stems from two areas: (1) They stop the run. They were second-best in the NFL at that task. (2) They make the big plays. Their total of 35 interceptions was the highest in the NFL. Their 54 sacks were second in the AFC.

They also are consistent. Neither of their playoff opponents, Houston and Cleveland, ran for more than 100 yards. Philadelphia ran for just 69 on Super Sunday. In the playoff games the Raiders intercepted five passes and recorded nine sacks. In the Super bowl, Ron Jaworski of the Eagles wasn't sacked, but Martin's three interceptions destroyed him.

The Raider front is nothing especially frightening. The nose tackle, Reggie Kinlaw, is too small to be a dominating player in the NFL. John Matuszak, the enormous left end, is derided by many opponents as a player who gives only selective effort. The right end, Dave Browning, is a sound, unspectacular player.

But the Raiders get great mileage from situa-

tion substitutions, which they pioneered. Dave Pear relieves Kinlaw and Willie Jones can be a load on the pass rush at end. Cedric Hardman, the ex-49er star, is a forceful contributor if used sparingly. Joe Campbell, from New Orleans, could be another Oakland retreat story.

The linebacking is where things happen. Hendricks is 34, but he played like a young colt last year when he was allowed to return to his free-lancing style.

There was no doubt in any scout's mind that Millen was a first-round talent when he came out of Penn State. The question concerned his balky back. By his own admission, he flunked a lot of physicals. But not Oakland's. Millen can be the No. 1 enforcer in the NFL if his back trouble doesn't flare up.

The other inside guy, Nelson, was a mystery up until last year. He had exceptional talent when he came out of the University of Nebraska to join the Bills, but Buffalo never saw it. Neither did Oakland the first time he tried out as a free agent. Neither did San Francisco, where he went at the beginning of last year. But when the Raiders got desperate and gave him a second chance, Nelson became the player Oakland talent assessor Ron Wolf always said he could be.

Martin is another player who bounced around, then landed in the right place when the Raiders needed help. They cut him once. That means there is still hope for subs Jeff Barnes, Randy McClanahan, and Mario Celotto. The latter two have been around the horn, too.

Lester Hayes became the most dangerous cover man in the NFL last year, an updated version of Night Train Lane who led the league with 13 interceptions. Hayes's penchant for loading his person with stick-um led the rules-makers to outlaw such substances after the season.

Davis, who made the game-saving interception against Cleveland, is better known for his murderous tackling. He hits more like a linebacker than a safety. O'Steen and Owens found winning to be contagious. Odis McKinney, the ex-Giant, is the nickel back. The man who hasn't found Raider fever to be infectious is Monte Jackson, once an All-Pro with the Rams but an expensive sub in Oakland.

Surprisingly, four of the Raiders' first five draft picks were defensive players. On their initial pick in the first round, the Raiders took Texas Tech safety Ted Watts, who should be the punt returner as a rookie and might even make Owens's job uneasy. In round two came Villanova's big tackle, Howie Long, and in the fourth Johnny Robinson of Louisiana Tech, a nose tackle whom some rated one of the sleepers of the draft. The fifth choice was defensive back James Davis of Southern U.

No matter what the statistics say, Ray Guy, year in and year out, is the best punter in football. His average last season was 43.6 yards, but he's such a good athlete that the Raiders ran him three times from scrimmage for an average of more than 12 yards. He threw one pass and that was completed for 32 yards. Chris Bahr, the reclaimed Bengal, connected on 19 of 37 field goals. He was 0-for-6 from the 50 and beyond.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs are improving. It says so in their won-lost records. They were 4-12 in Marv Levy's first year as coach, then 7-9. In 1980, they broke even, 8-8, their best record in seven years. Unfortunately the improvement is hidden



Cornerback Lester Hayes (top) and wide receiver Bob Chandler (#85) excelled for Oakland last season.

behind the dreariest offense in the NFL.

1. Kansas City was last in total offense in the entire league in 1980.

2. The Chiefs were next-to-last in passing.

3. They were tied for 18th in running the ball.

4. They had the fewest first downs in the AFC.

5. They had the fewest first downs passing in the AFC.

6. They allowed their quarterbacks to be sacked 57 times, most in the NFL.

7. Their 42 fumbles led the league.

Their defense is better, but not all that better. There were ten AFC teams which allowed fewer points.

What can you say good about the Chiefs? Well, they don't get a lot of penalties; they return punts well; they get a lot of touchdowns on returns and recoveries; they have a good place-kicker, Nick Lowery, and their secondary is first rate. Other than that, they are a bore.

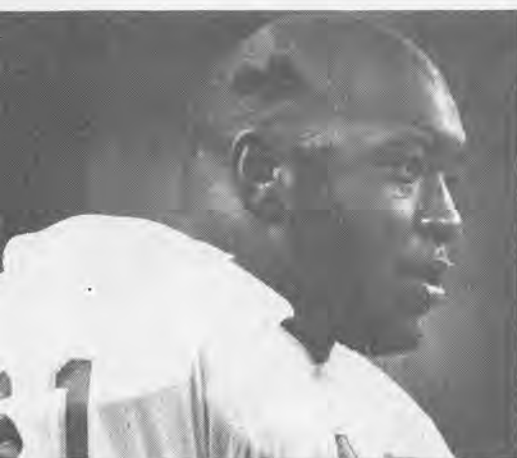
To help the offense, the Chiefs relied on the draft, which, under the direction of capable Les Miller, has produced some outstanding athletes in the last few years. The first three picks, all offensive players, could help immediately.

RAIDERS VETERAN ROSTER

		NFL						
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college	
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	175	28	6	Penn St.	
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	220	26	5	California	
81	Bradshaw, Morris	WR	6-1	195	29	8	Ohio St.	
21	Branch, Clifford	WR	5-11	170	33	10	Colorado	
73	Browning, Dave	DE	6-5	245	25	4	Washington	
77	Campbell, Joe	DE	6-6	250	26	5	Maryland	
52	Celotto, Mario	LB	6-3	225	25	3	USC	
85	Chandler, Bob	WR	6-1	180	32	11	USC	
88	Chester, Raymond	TE	6-4	235	33	12	Morgan St.	
46	Christensen, Todd	TE-RB	6-3	230	25	3	BYU	
50	Dalby, Dave	C	6-3	250	31	10	UCLA	
79	Davis, Bruce	G	6-6	280	25	3	UCLA	
36	Davis, Mike	S	6-3	200	25	4	Colorado	
8	Guy, Ray	P	6-3	200	32	9	S. Miss.	
86	Hardman, Cedrick	DE	6-4	245	33	12	N. Texas St.	
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	200	26	5	Texas A&M	
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	225	34	13	Miami	
42	Jackson, Monte	CB	5-11	200	28	7	San Diego St.	
31	Jensen, Derrick	RB	6-1	225	25	3	Arlington	
58	Johnson, Monte	LB	6-5	240	30	8	Nebraska	
90	Jones, Willie	DE	6-4	245	24	3	Florida St.	
33	King, Kenny	RB	5-11	205	24	3	Oklahoma	
62	Kinlaw, Reggie	DT	6-2	240	24	3	Oklahoma	
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	30	8	Florida A&M	
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	215	27	5	USC	
89	Martini, Rich	WR	6-2	185	26	3	Cal.-Davis	
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	275	26	5	Tennessee	
71	Mason, Lindsey	T	6-5	270	26	3	Kansas	
43	Mathews, Ira	WR-RB	5-8	175	24	3	Wisconsin	
72	Matuszak, John	DE	6-8	285	31	9	Tampa	
57	McClanahan, Randy	LB	6-5	225	27	4	SW La	
23	McKinney, Odis	CB	6-2	185	24	4	Colorado	
	Meseroli, Mark	T	6-5	275	26	2	Florida St.	
55	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	255	23	2	Penn St.	
26	Moody, Keith	CB	5-11	175	28	6	Syracuse	
51	Nelson, Bob	LB	6-4	230	28	6	Nebraska	
35	O'Steen, Dwayne	CB	6-1	195	27	4	San Jose St.	
44	Owens, Burgess	S	6-0	200	30	9	Miami	
7	Pastorini, Dan	QB	6-3	205	32	11	Santa Clara	
74	Pear, Dave	DT	6-2	250	28	7	Washington	
47	Phillips, Charles	S	6-3	215	29	6	USC	
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	210	34	11	Stanford	
84	Ramsey, Derrick	TE	6-4	230	25	4	Kentucky	
78	Shell, Art	T	6-5	285	35	14	Maryland-E. S.	
	Sims, Mickey	DT	6-5	270	26	4	S.C. St.	
66	Sylvester, Steve	OL	6-4	260	28	7	Notre Dame	
63	Upshaw, Gene	G	6-5	255	36	15	Texas A&I	
30	van Eeghen, Mark	RB	6-2	225	29	8	Colgate	
22	Whittington, Arthur	RB	5-11	180	26	4	SMU	
6	Wilson, Marc	QB	6-5	210	24	2	BYU	
61	Winans, Jeff	DT	6-4	260	30	5	USC	

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Watts, Ted	DB	6-1	185	22	Texas Tech
1	Marsh, Curt	OT	6-5	275	22	Washington
2	Long, Howie	DT	6-3	250	22	Villanova
4	Robinson, Johnny	DT	6-3	260	22	La. Tech
5	Davis, James	DB	6-0	190	22	Southern
9	Mohl, Curt	OT	6-5	260	22	UCLA
10	Hawkins, Frank	RB	6-0	190	21	Reno
11	Willis, Chester	RB	5-11	194	22	Auburn
12	Nelson, Phil	TE	6-3	215	21	Delaware



CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	NFL college
56	Ane, Charlie	C	6-1	237	27	7	Michigan St.
26	Barbaro, Gary	S	6-4	204	27	6	Nicholls St.
85	Beckman, Ed	TE	6-4	226	26	5	Florida St.
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-4	255	24	2	Colorado St.
35	Belton, Horace	RB	5-8	200	26	4	SE La.
57	Blanton, Jerry	LB	6-1	225	25	3	Kentucky
66	Budde, Brad	G	6-4	255	23	2	Southern Cal.
88	Carson, Carlos	WR	5-10	172	23	2	LSU
42	Carter, M. L.	CB	5-9	173	26	3	Fullerton
41	Christopher, Herb	S	5-10	190	27	3	Morris Brown
65	Condon, Tom	G	6-3	254	29	8	Boston Coll.
84	Dixon, Al	TE	6-5	220	27	5	Iowa State
46	Dombroski, Paul	CB	6-0	185	25	2	Lynfield
4	Fuller, Steve	QB	6-4	198	24	3	Clemson
23	Gant, Earl	RB	6-0	207	24	3	Missouri
80	Garcia, Bubba	WR	5-11	185	24	2	El Paso
77	Getty, Charlie	T	6-4	269	29	8	Penn State
24	Green, Gary	CB	5-11	184	26	5	Baylor
1	Grupp, Bob	P	5-11	193	26	3	Duke
48	Hadnot, James	RB	6-2	244	24	2	Texas Tech
44	Harris, Eric	CB	6-3	191	26	2	Memphis St.
60	Herkenhoff, Matt	T	6-4	270	30	6	Minnesota
75	Hicks, Sylvester	DE	6-4	252	26	4	Tenn. St.
52	Howard, Thomas	LB	6-2	208	27	5	Texas Tech.
51	Jackson, Charles	LB	6-2	220	26	4	Washington
9	Kenney, Bill	DB	6-4	210	26	3	No. Colorado
91	Kremer, Ken	DE/NT	6-4	250	24	3	Ball State
71	Lindstrom, Dave	DE	6-6	257	27	4	Boston U.
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	190	25	2	Dartmouth
74	Mangiero, Dino	NT	6-2	265	23	2	Rutgers
54	Manumaleuga, Frank	LB	6-2	245	25	3	San Jose St.
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	214	27	6	Missouri
22	McKnight, Ted	RB	6-1	216	27	4	Minn.-Duluth
21	Morgado, Arnold	RB	5-11	205	29	5	Hawaii
72	Oates, Brad	T	6-6	270	28	6	Brigham Young
61	Parrish, Don	NT	6-2	249	26	4	Pittsburgh
53	Paul, Whitney	LB	6-3	220	26	6	Colorado
50	Peterson, Cal	LB	6-4	220	29	6	UCLA
31	Reese, Jerry	S	6-3	192	26	3	Oklahoma
87	Rome, Stan	WR	6-5	205	25	3	Clemson
27	Rose, Donovan	CB	6-1	180	24	2	Hampton Inst.
70	Rourke, Jim	G	6-5	265	24	2	Boston Coll.
58	Rudnay, Jack	C	6-2	242	34	12	Northwestern
55	Sanders, Clarence	LB	6-4	230	29	2	Cincinnati
73	Simmons, Bob	G	6-4	260	27	5	Texas
86	Smith, J. T.	KR/WR	6-2	185	26	4	North Tex. St.
59	Spani, Gary	LB	6-2	230	25	4	Kansas St.
67	Still, Art	DE	6-7	252	26	4	Kentucky
45	Talton, Ken	RB	6-0	205	25	2	Cornell
40	Williams, Mike	RB	6-3	222	24	3	New Mexico

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Scott, Willie	TE	6-4	245	21	So. Carolina
2	Delaney, Joe	RB	5-10	186	22	NW La. St.
3	Harvey, Marvin	TE	6-2	222	23	So. Miss.
3	Taylor, Roger	OT	6-6	265	21	Okl. St.
3	Burruss, Lloyd	SS	5-11	200	22	Maryland
4	Washington, Ron	WR	5-11	190	22	Arizona St.
5	Thomas, Todd	OL	6-5	267	22	No. Dakota
6	Luckie, Dock	NT	6-1	260	21	Florida
7	Jackson, Billy	FB	6-0	225	22	Alabama
8	Dorn, David	WR	6-0	177	22	Rutgers
9	Vereen, Anthony	DB	5-10	202	22	SE La. St.
10	Studdard, Les	OG	6-4	255	22	Texas
11	Case, Frank	DE	6-4	242	21	Penn St.
12	Gagliano, Bob	QB	6-2	191	22	Utah St.

Willie Scott, the best tight end in the draft, was No. 1. He has an open invitation to the starting lineup, with his toughest competition coming from the third pick, Marvin Harvey of Southern Mississippi. Picking a second tight end that high is in keeping with Levy's against-the-grain philosophy: supercautious offense in an era of high-risk attacks. No matter who wins the Scott-Harvey fight for the starting assignment, both should play a lot. Harvey has better speed. Scott is a first-rate blocker.

The second-round pick, Northwest Louisiana halfback Joe Delaney, could help more than anyone. He has blazing speed, wiggles, and, according to Buffalo quarterback Joe Ferguson, who helped coach his college team in the spring, hands good enough to make him a pro prospect as a wide receiver.

The Chiefs used another third-round pick and a fourth for two more offensive rookies, tackle Roger Taylor of Oklahoma State and wide receiver Al Washington of Arizona State. Taylor probably won't play much this season. KC drafted Brad Budde, an offensive lineman with far better credentials, in the first round last year and then hardly played him in a woeful year for its line. Washington could get a lot of work in relief of J.T. Smith, the NFL's best punt returner. Smith, who made the Pro Bowl on the strength of his 14.5-yard average and two scoring returns, might be more explosive as a receiver if he got an occasional rest.

The Chiefs' offense is directed by one of the NFL's brightest quarterbacks, Steve Fuller. He finished fourth in the AFC efficiency rating. Levy stuck with a ponderous running attack rather than unshackle Fuller, who was allowed to throw only 320 times. Who knows what he might have done if he hadn't been sacked 49 times? There is an interesting backup, Bill Kenney, who threw five touchdown passes in relief of Fuller when Steve was hurt. Kenney presided at two of the KC victories.

1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING	Lowery, 97 points on 20 field goals and 37 PAT's... 5th
RUSHING	McKnight, 206 carries for 693 yards, 3.4 avg., 3 TD's... 13th
PASSING	Fuller, 193 of 320 attempts for 2,250 yards, 10 TD's... 4th
RECEIVING	Marshall, 47 receptions for 799 yards, 17.0 avg., 6 TD's... 22nd
INTERCEPTIONS	Barbaro, 10 for 163 yards, 16.3 avg... 2nd
PUNTING	Grupp, 84 punts, 39.5 avg., longest 57 yards... 9th
PUNT RETURNS	Smith, 40 for 581 yards, 14.5 avg., 2 TD's... 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS	Carson, 40 for 917 yards, 22.9 avg... 5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	7 At Washington (N)
	15 CHICAGO (N)
	22 ST. LOUIS (N)
	28 At Miami (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 At Pittsburgh	16-21
	13 TAMPA BAY	—
	20 SAN DIEGO	7-24
	27 At Seattle	31-30
October	4 At New England	—
	11 OAKLAND	14-27
	18 DENVER	31-14
	25 At Oakland	31-17
November	1 At San Diego	7-20
	8 CHICAGO	—
	15 HOUSTON	21-20
	22 SEATTLE	16-17
	26 At Detroit	20-17
December	6 At Denver	23-17
	13 MIAMI	—
	20 At Minnesota	—

Henry Marshall, who openly criticized Levy's offense in the past, had his best season as a wide receiver, catching 47 balls for a 17-yard average and six touchdowns. Teamed with Kenney in the final game against Baltimore, he caught nine passes for 176 yards. His partner, Smith, caught 46. The top sub, Carlos Carson, caught only five. Carson did a sound job returning kickoffs, averaging almost 23 yards per.

Delaney's partner in the backfield will be Ted McKnight, who led the team in rushing with a mere 693 yards. The Chiefs drafted high for power running talent in recent years, but James Hadnot was just so-so as a rookie last year and Earl Gant tore up a knee. Horace Belton played some with mediocre results and Tony Reed, once a 1,000-yard producer, was traded to the Denver Broncos.

Levy hired a new offensive line coach, Tom Bresnahan, whose career has been spent entirely in college football. Maybe that's what the Chief forwards need, a teacher. Budde should replace either Bob Simmons or Tom Condon as a starter. Tackles Matt Herkenhoff and Charlie Getty both have had knee troubles, so Simmons's future may be here. Jack Rudnay returns for his 13th season at center. Bresnahan could make an immediate reputation if he succeeds with the material here.

The outlook on defense is much brighter. It starts with All-Pro end Art Still, who recorded 14½ sacks last year. The Chiefs' three-man front might have another end of nearly equal ability if Mike Bell can stay healthy. He lasted just two games in 1980, then underwent shoulder surgery. The season before, as a rookie, it was a knee injury.

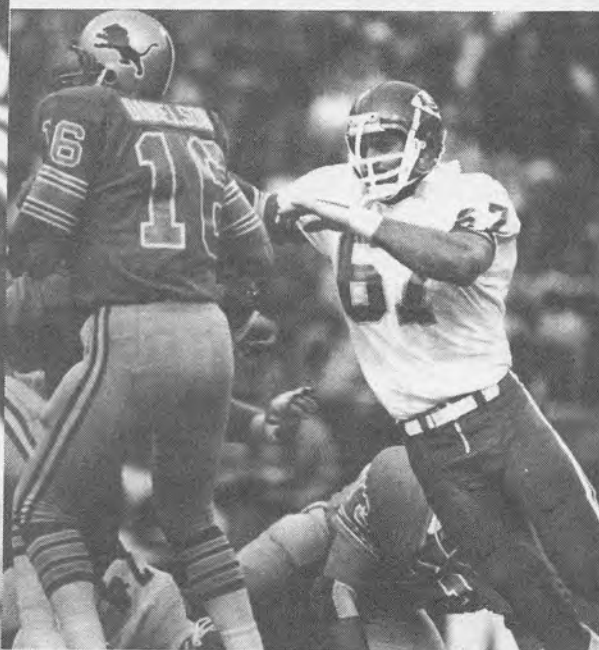
Don Parrish starts at nose tackle, but Dino Mangiero and Ken Kremer log a lot of time. Dave Lindstrom started at end when Bell got hurt. Sylvester Hicks, once a bright prospect but now considered a disappointment, is at a career crossroads. The draft brought an interesting prospect, Florida tackle Dock Luckie, one of the strongest men in America and fast for his size. The catch is that he never played all that well in college.

The foremost defensive problem is the line-backing. Only Gary Spani played well last year, at least consistently well. He participated in 149 tackles. There should be battles for the three other positions. Frank Manumaleuga and Jerry Blanton contest for the inside job next to Spani. Dave Klug, a college hurdler who missed his rookie season due to an ankle injury, is expected to press veteran Thomas Howard. Cal Peterson and Whitney Paul, both veterans, skirmish for the other outside assignment. Clarence Sanders might insert himself in a battle for any of the three available jobs. No linebacker was drafted, although the Chiefs admitted they would have picked one early except for other, more pressing needs.

The riches are in the secondary. Gary Barbaro, who intercepted ten passes and returned them for an average of 16.3 yards, was the Pro Bowl free safety. Herb Christopher came along nicely at strong safety.

Eric Harris, who signed with the Chiefs after playing out his option with Toronto of the Cana-

Nose tackle Don Parrish (top left), running back Ted McKnight (#22), defensive ends Art Still (#67) and Dave Linstrom (#71), and quarterback Steve Fuller (#4) of the Kansas City Chiefs



dian League, sulked at first, then was a heavy contributor. It was a reluctant signing since Harris first agreed to a New Orleans offer. KC, which had the right to match the best offer—since Harris was their original draft choice—agreed to pay what New Orleans had offered. Therefore Harris became a Chief. The other corner, Gary Green, is one of the best in the NFL. Lloyd Burruss of Maryland will work as a reserve against the competition of Jerry Reese, M.L. Carter, and Paul Dombrowski.

Punter Bob Grupp, a Pro Bowler in his rookie season, faltered last year, but Lowery replaced the Chiefs' all-time place-kicker, Jan Stenerud, and made good on 20 of 26 attempts, including an impressive four-for-seven beyond the 50.

DENVER BRONCOS

Remember how the Denver Broncos once used "Win with the Orange Crush" as their battle cry? Now they have a new motto: "Don't trust anyone over 42."

At least it seems that way. Edgar F. Kaiser, of the aluminum, oil, automobile, and what-have-you Kaisers, purchased the team last February and promptly alienated every middle-aged sports fan in North America by firing fiftyish Red Miller, who took the Broncos to their first Super Bowl in his rookie year as head coach in 1977.

Kaiser could have blamed the Broncos' soggy offense, error-prone drafting, or Red's reported hostility to the new regime as the reason for firing the coach. No, he said it wasn't anything like that. He said he wanted to communicate with someone more his own age. So the 38-year-old owner hired 37-year-old Dan

Reeves as Miller's replacement. He canned 65-year-old Fred Gehrke as general manager and hired Grady Alderman, who is 42 but shy on administrative experience. Tom Braatz, Atlanta's astute personnel chief, also was ready to come aboard, but when he found out his new job wasn't to be GM, he demurred.

No doubt, the Broncos were overpaid under-producers last year, but there is no evidence that Reeves has the offensive material to do much better. The wisest thing Reeves did was retain the defensive staff: coordinator Joe Collier, line coach Stan Jones, secondary coach Richie McCabe, and linebacker coach Bob Zeman.

Reeves's bag is offense. That's why he was mentioned for many coaching vacancies in the NFL in the last half dozen years. He was chafing under Tom Landry when he didn't get one. This is his chance. He will install the Cowboys' multiple offense in Denver, even though he has the material which slogged along in Miller's primitive attack.

The quarterback? Take a guess. Reeves may do the same. Craig Morton knows the Cowboys' system since he used to run it, but what kind of building for the future would that be to play the 16-year veteran? He's almost as old as Kaiser. Matt Robinson had his finest afternoon as a Bronco last season in defeating Dallas, but that was one of the few pleasant memories Matt has of the season in which Miller sent a fortune in draft choices to the New York Jets for their backup quarterback. Reeves liked what he saw of young Jeff Knappe in the spring rehearsals and the Broncos also drafted Mark Herrmann, who had great numbers at Purdue but who

possesses neither a major-league passing arm nor much mobility.

The most helpful new player may be Tony Reed, once a 1,000-yard rusher for Kansas City. He came in a draft-day trade. Reed probably will line up with Jim Jensen, the fullback who formerly played for Reeves in Dallas. The rest of the Bronco veterans are plow-horse types: Dave Preston, Rob Lytle, Jon Keyworth, and Larry Canada. Rick Parros, who missed his rookie year due to injuries, might have some possibilities, as might free agent I.M. Hipp and draftee Alvin Lewis of Colorado State.

Reeves is even harder up for wide receivers. He had to talk 13-year veteran Haven Moses into foregoing his retirement. Rick Upchurch is one of the most dangerous punt returners, but he never has turned into a killer receiver. He caught 46 balls last year for a 13.2-yard average. Moses caught 38 for a 17.7-yard rate. Since no high pick was used to take a wide receiver, Reeves might find something unused in Steve Watson or John Smith, who got lost in the shuffle among Cleveland's good receivers.

A sign of things to come was the use of a second-round pick to take tight end Clay Brown of Brigham Young. He won't replace aging Riley Odoms immediately, but he should play a lot in Reeves's slicked-up attack. Odoms averaged 15.1 yards on his 39 receptions and led the team in touchdown catches with six. He also suffered a broken bone in his shoulder, yet missed just one contest. He's a gamer.

Offensive-line play has never been the Broncos' forte, so when they crow about reducing the number of times their quarterback was

CHARGERS FOOTBALL WEEKLY

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1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Steinfort, 110 points on 26 field goals and 32 PAT's... 3rd
RUSHING—Jensen, 101 carries for 476 yards, 4.7 avg., 2 TD's... 20th
PASSING—Morton, 183 of 301 attempts for 2,150 yards, 12 TD's... 3rd
RECEIVING—Jensen, 49 receptions for 377 yards, 7.7 avg., 1 TD... 21st
INTERCEPTIONS—Foley, 4 for 115 yards, 28.8 avg... 23rd
PUNTING—Prestridge, 70 punts, 43.9 avg., longest 57 yards... 1st
PUNT RETURNS—Upchurch, 37 for 353 yards, 9.5 avg... 5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Brunson, 40 for 923 yards, 23.1 avg... 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 NY Jets (N)
15 At Miami (N)
22 GREEN BAY (N)
29 At Cincinnati (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 OAKLAND	21-24
	13 At Seattle	25-17
	20 BALTIMORE	—
	27 SAN DIEGO	13-30
October	4 At Oakland	3-9
	11 DETROIT	—
	18 At Kansas City	14-31
	25 At Buffalo	—
November	2 MINNESOTA (N)	—
	8 CLEVELAND	19-16
	15 At Tampa Bay	—
	22 At Cincinnati	—
	29 At San Diego	20-13
December	6 KANSAS CITY	17-23
	13 SEATTLE	36-20
	20 At Chicago	—



Denver quarterback Craig Morton (#7) enters his 17th professional season; Jim Jensen (#30) led the Broncos in rushing last season.

AFCwest



sacked to 44 in a season, their lowest figure in seven years, you understand. The best of the guys up front is center Bill Bryan, who was voted the team's most valuable player and is a future All-Pro. The guards are Tom Glassic and Paul Howard, although the latter could be pushed by an outsider, such as the good backup center, Keith Bishop, or John Havekost, who missed his rookie season due to injury. Tackle Claudie Minor is a sound player, but possibly the most overpaid offensive lineman in football. He was one of the many Broncos, most of them in the high salary brackets, who were shopped around the NFL after Kaiser's accoun-

ants took a look at the books. Kelvin Clark should start at left tackle, backed by Dave Studard. The depth includes handyman Glenn Hyde and free agent Ken Long. Top draftee was Ken Lanier of Florida State.

Since the offense finished 25th overall in the NFL, 22d in passing, and 20th in running, it's no wonder the Broncos like to change the subject to defense. But not everything was rosy there, either. Denver was uncharacteristically low, 20th, against the run. But that may have been due to the of injuries among the linebackers. All-Pro Rob Swenson missed the whole season. Joe Rizzo missed all but four games.

Randy Gradishar also played injured at times but still participated in 230 tackles and was named the MVP on defense. But he didn't make the Pro Bowl, as he normally does. In fact, no Denver player made it. Tom Jackson played banged up, too. Ron Nairne and Larry Evans played fairly well in the absence of Rizzo and Swenson. The highest drafted rookie, Southern Cal's Alvin Busick, came in round six. Rizzo was released in the spring.

The best news on defense was in the line, where a super pass rusher was uncovered, along with a semi-super. The super is Rulon Jones, last year's top draftee. He played on passing downs and made 11½ sacks. The semi is Greg Boyd, who kicked around the league before making it big with the Broncos. He had nine sacks.

Stan Jones uses a lot of linemen. Last year's starters were Rubin Carter at nose tackle, with Barney Chavous and Brison Manor at ends. But

Jones is starting to use more four-man line. He has two other nose tackles of skill, Don Latimer and Laval Short, who was a rookie last year.

There is almost a sure change in line for the secondary. That's at strong as safety, where Bill Thompson has logged 13 seasons and Dennis Smith, a marvelous athlete from Southern California, was the No. 1 draft choice. If Smith doesn't start the season, expect him in the lineup by November. There was a big change last year, with ex-corner Steve Foley shifting to free safety and Aaron Kyle, picked up from Dallas, where he once started, moving in at right corner. The left corner is Louis Wright, many times an All-Pro. Reserves are Maurice Harvey, Mike Harden, and Perry Smith.

The Broncos get a lot of mileage from their return games. Upchurch was fifth in the AFC with a 9.5-yard average. He is capable of much better. Larry Brunson, picked up early in the season, averaged 23 yards per kickoff return.

Place-kicker Fred Steinfort was a large part of the offense after he replaced veteran Jim Turner. He connected on 26 of 34 field goals. He was 10-for-14 between the 40 and 50, 5-for-8 beyond the 50. That included a 57-yarder, third-longest field goal in NFL history. He kicks off well, too. Punter Luke Prestridge led the AFC with a 43.9-yard gross average.

No. 1 draft choice Dennis Smith (top left), cornerback Louis Wright (#20), defensive end Rulon Jones (#75), and strong safety Bill Thompson (#36) of the Broncos

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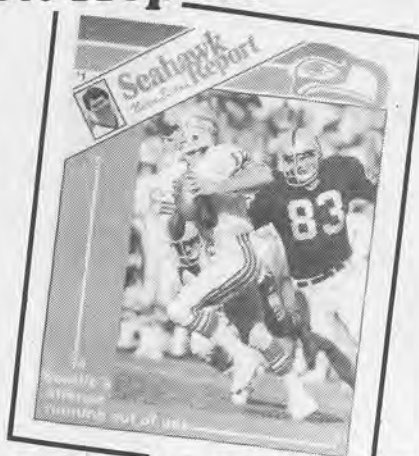
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BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
54	Bishop, Keith	C	6-3	260	24	2	Baylor
77	Boyd, Greg	DE	6-6	280	28	4	San Diego St.
52	Bracelin, Greg	LB	6-1	218	24	2	California
82	Brunson, Larry	WR/KR	5-11	180	32	8	Colorado
64	Bryan, Bill	C	6-2	244	26	5	Duke
35	Canada, Larry	RB	6-2	226	27	3	Wisconsin
68	Carter, Rubin	DT	6-0	253	29	7	Miami
79	Chavous, Barney	DE	6-3	245	30	9	So. Car. St.
73	Clark, Kelvin	T	6-3	245	25	3	Nebraska
85	Egloff, Ron	TE	6-5	227	26	5	Wisconsin
56	Evans, Larry	LB	6-2	220	28	6	Miss. Col.
43	Foley, Steve	CB	6-2	190	28	6	Tulane
62	Glassic, Tom	G	6-3	250	27	6	Virginia
53	Gradishar, Randy	LB	6-3	231	29	8	Ohio St.
31	Harden, Mike	S	6-0	188	23	2	Michigan
27	Harvey, Maurice	DB	5-10	190	25	3	Ball St.
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3	260	31	8	Brigham Young
65	Hyde, Glenn	T	6-3	252	30	6	Pittsburgh
57	Jackson, Tom	LB	5-11	228	30	9	Louisville
30	Jensen, Jim	RB	6-3	230	28	5	Iowa
75	Jones, Rulon	DE	6-6	260	23	2	Utah St.
32	Keyworth, Jon	RB	6-3	230	31	8	Colorado
16	Knapple, Jeff	QB	6-2	200	25	2	No. Colorado
22	Kyle, Aaron	CB	5-11	185	27	6	Wyoming
72	Latimer, Don	DT	6-2	253	26	4	Miami
41	Lytile, Rob	RB	6-1	195	27	5	Michigan
66	Manor, Brison	DE	6-4	248	29	5	Arkansas
71	Minor, Claudie	T	6-4	275	30	8	San Diego St.
86	Moorehead, Emery	WR	6-2	210	27	5	Colorado
7	Morton, Craig	QB	6-4	211	38	17	California
25	Moses, Haven	WR	6-2	201	35	14	San Diego St.
58	Nairne, Rob	LB	6-4	220	27	5	Oregon St.
88	Odoms, Riley	TE	6-4	230	31	10	Houston
46	Preston, Dave	RB	5-10	195	26	4	Bowl Green
11	Prestridge, Luke	P	6-4	235	25	3	Baylor
	Reed, Tony	RB	5-10	197	26	5	Colorado
17	Robinson, Matt	QB	6-2	196	26	5	Georgia
50	Ryan, Jim	LB	6-1	212	24	3	Wm & Mary
63	Short, Laval	DT	6-3	250	23	2	Colorado
45	Smith, Perry	CB	6-1	190	30	9	Colorado St.
19	Steinfert, Fred	K	5-11	180	29	6	Boston Coll.
70	Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	255	26	3	Texas
51	Swenson, Bob	LB	6-3	225	28	7	California
36	Thompson, Bill	S	6-1	197	35	13	Maryland St.
61	Thompson, Arland	G	6-3	265	24	2	Baylor
80	Upchurch, Rick	WR	5-10	176	29	7	Minnesota
81	Watson, Steve	WR	6-4	192	24	3	Temple
20	Wright, Louis	CB	6-2	200	28	7	San Jose St.
87	Wright, Jim	TE	6-3	240	25	3	TCU

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	22	USC
2	Brown, Clay	TE	6-3	222	22	Brigham Young
4	Herrmann, Mark	QB	6-4	187	22	Purdue
5	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	264	23	Florida St.
6	Lewis, Alvin	RB	5-11	185	22	Colorado St.
7	Busick, Steve	LB	6-4	231	23	USC
9	Olsen, Rusty	DE	6-3	251	22	Washington
11	Walker, Pat	WR	6-2	183	22	Miami
12	Hankerd, John	LB	6-3	240	22	Notre Dame
12	Robinson, Mandel	RB	6-2	223	22	Wyoming

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

For two seasons, a little Camelot was located in the Kingdome. The Seahawks won 18 games in 1978-79. Unless the team does a 180-degree turn, that bright glow from Camelot may have been extinguished for quite a while.

November and December were a complete disaster for Seattle, which puts a pall on prospects for 1981. The team finished with nine consecutive dips into the tank, losing indiscriminately, once to the New York Giants and participating in a nationally televised barbecue at Dallas, 51-7. Worse yet, the Seahawks lost all eight games in the Kingdome.

What happened after that gloomy string was that Jack Patera, who has become the most hostile coach in major-league sports, was given a long extension of his contract by the Seahawk management. That is a loser's move. Having done that, the Seahawks made a dimly controversial selection in the college draft. Not on their first pick. They used that to take UCLA safety Ken Easley, who should turn into a star, maybe immediately.

It was the second-round pick which caused the stir. The Seahawks' running attack was sluggish and unproductive last year. The starters were Ram castoff Jim Jodat and Giant castoff Dan Doornink. The third back was Lawrence McCutcheon, who is at the end of his career. The one bright star of the running attack, Sherman Smith, suffered a knee injury early in the season. There is no assurance a back, particularly a hefty one such as Smith, can bounce back quickly from knee surgery.

But the Seahawks passed up backs such as Joe Delaney, Jarvis Redwine, Anthony Collins, and James Wilder to draft Boise State's David Hughes, a hard-blocking short-yardage runner whom many scouts liked but rated no higher than a fourth or fifth rounder. It was similar to the time the Seahawks traded the rights to Tony Dorsett and then promptly made Steve August, a journeyman tackle, their first-round pick. August is still no better than a journeyman.

But even though the drafting of Hughes with such a high pick was the top controversy of the Spring of 1981, the top problem for Autumn of 1981 is the Seattle defense. You wouldn't think that to hear Patera:

"Overall, this is the best defensive line play we have had in our five years. . . . We have four solid starters now in Jacob Green and Bill Gregory at ends and Manu Tuiaosopo and Robert Hardy at tackles. [Linebacker] Michael Jackson was the star, no doubt about it. [David] Brown played more consistently in '80 and it is important when you can count on a player to be out there on every play. If this secondary continues to play together as they did at times in '80, they can be outstanding as a group."

Oh yeah? Well, somebody must have been getting the hell beat out of them because the Seattle defense gave up 408 points. No other AFC team yielded 400. In all of their 16 games,

Defensive tackles Manu Tuiaosopo and Robert Hardy (right), top draft pick Kenny Easley (#5), and QB Jim Zorn (#10) of Seattle Seahawks



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1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Herrera, 93 points on 20 field goals and 33 PAT's... 7th
RUSHING—Jodat, 155 carries for 632 yards, 4.1 avg., 5 TD's... 15th
PASSING—Zorn, 276 of 488 attempts for 3,346 yards, 17 TD's... 10th
RECEIVING—Largent, 66 receptions for 1,064 yards, 16.1 avg., 6 TD's... 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Brown, 6 for 32 yards, 5.3 avg... 12th
PUNTING—Weaver, 67 punts, 41.8 avg., longest 62 yards... 5th
PUNT RETURNS—Lewis, 41 for 349 yards, 8.5 avg., 1 TD... 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lewis, 25 for 585 yards, 23.4 avg... 2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 SAN FRANCISCO (N)
14 ST. LOUIS (N)
22 At San Francisco (N)
28 BALTIMORE (N)

1981 SCHEDULE

September 6 At Cincinnati... —
13 DENVER... 17-25
20 At Oakland... 14-33
27 KANSAS CITY... 30-31
October 4 At San Diego... 14-21
11 At Houston... 26-7
18 NY GIANTS... 21-27
25 At NY Jets... 27-17
November 1 At Green Bay... —
8 PITTSBURGH... —
16 SAN DIEGO (N)... 13-34
22 At Kansas City... 17-16
29 OAKLAND... 17-19
December 6 NY JETS... —
13 At Denver... 20-36
20 CLEVELAND... 3-27

1980 SCORES



Seattle's opponents scored 20 or more points. The Seahawks also had the second-worst pass rush in the AFC. Surprisingly, there was only one change in the defensive coaching staff. Jackie Simpson, ex-San Diego defensive coordinator, will coach the linebackers.

There must be more talent on the defensive roster than the record indicates, because the Seahawks can put five No. 1 choices on the field in 1981, led by Green and Easley. The expectation is that Green will get a lot better. He had six sacks as a rookie, but when he came out of the draft a year ago the general consensus was that he was a super quarterback assaulter. Easley is a superb athlete, a guy who might be All-Pro for a decade, under the right circumstances. If the Seahawks use him as a punt returner, he'll juice up that specialty, too.

The expected installation of Easley at strong safety will put Keith Simpson, another defender with strong potential, at cornerback. He'll probably battle with incumbent Kerry Justin on the left side, with Brown playing right corner. John Harris is the free safety.

As Patera says, Michael Jackson has become a star linebacker. The other starters are Terry Beeson, a hitter but not the most mobile man in the NFL, and Keith Butler. Joe Norman played some as a rookie. No linebacker was drafted.

Offensively, quarterback Jim Zorn is no longer perceived as the wonderboy he once was. The Seahawks' 0-8 home record no doubt had something to do with the boos he heard.

Zorn threw for 3,346 yards and 17 touchdowns. There was little doubt that he was handicapped by the lack of an established running game.

He has the receivers. Steve Largent, always reliable, caught 66 passes for a 16-yard average. Sam McCullum had his best season, 62 catches for a 14.1 average. Each caught six touchdown passes. Steve Raible is the only reserve of note, which is why Scott Phillips of Brigham Young was drafted, although he may get his first look as a running back.

Tight end is another critical position. John Sawyer caught 36 passes last year, but his rightful role is that of a backup. Yet, the only tight end drafted was Brad Scovill of Penn State, who came way down in the seventh round.

The only stickout on the offensive line is center John Yarno. Guard Tom Lynch, distracted by a contract struggle, had a down season. Two guards, Penn State's Bill Dugan and South Carolina State's Ed Bailey, were drafted high. Lynch and Bob Newton could be challenged eventually. August's tackle partner is Ron Essink, who beat out Louis Bullard late in his rookie season. Last year's No. 2 draftee, Andre Hines, was an overweight flop.

The Seahawks' ability to protect Zorn, one of the NFL's most mobile quarterbacks, and his backups, Steve Myers and Sam Adkins, has to be questioned after last year's performance. Seattle quarterbacks were sacked 51 times,

Seattle running backs Sherman Smith (top) and Dan Doornink (bottom)



with Zorn going down 44. The previous season the team figure was 23. That's inflation of the bloodiest sort.

Will Lewis was the top punt returner, averaging 8.5 yards and taking one back 75 yards for a touchdown. But Easley could replace him. Lewis, one of the better special-teams performers in the league, averaged 23.4 yards on kickoff returns. Effren Herrera, still deadly within the 40, kicked 20 field goals in 31 tries. Punter Herman Weaver averaged 41.8 yards.

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	NFL college
12	Adkins, Sam	QB	6-2	214	26	5	Wichita St.
85	Allen, Mike	WR	6-3	190	25	1	Wash. St.
63	Anderson, Fred	DE	6-4	235	27	3	Prairie View
76	August, Steve	T	6-5	254	27	5	Tulsa
58	Beeson, Terry	LB	6-3	235	26	5	Kansas
82	Bell, Mark	TE	6-4	235	24	3	Colorado St.
68	Boyd, Dennis	T	6-6	255	26	4	Oregon State
36	Brinson, Larry	RB	6-0	214	29	5	Florida
22	Brown, Dave	CB	6-2	190	28	7	Michigan
72	Bullard, Louis	T	6-6	265	25	4	Jackson St.
53	Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	225	25	4	Memphis St.
67	Cooke, Bill	DT	6-5	250	30	7	Massachusetts
50	Cosgrove, Jack	C	6-3	245	23	1	Pacific
57	Cronan, Peter	LB	6-2	238	26	3	Boston Coll.
62	Dion, Terry	DE	6-6	254	24	2	Oregon
33	Doornink, Dan	RB	6-3	210	25	4	Wash. St.
25	Dufek, Don	S	6-0	195	27	5	Michigan
29	Ena, Tai	RB	6-0	192	24	1	Wash. St.
64	Essink, Ron	T	6-6	246	23	2	Grand Valley
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	247	24	2	Texas A&M
86	Green, Jessie	WR	6-3	194	27	3	Tulsa
77	Gregory, Bill	DE	6-5	260	32	11	Wisconsin
75	Hardy, Robert	DT	6-2	250	25	3	Jackson St.
44	Harris, John	S	6-2	200	25	4	Arizona St.
1	Herrera, Effren	K	5-9	190	30	7	UCLA
73	Hines, Andre	T	6-6	275	23	2	Stanford
24	Hunter, Al	FB	5-11	195	26	5	Notre Dame
55	Jackson, Michael	LB	6-1	220	24	3	Washington
71	Jacobs, Daniel	DE	6-6	265	23	1	Win. Salem
43	Jodat, Jim	FB	5-11	213	27	5	Carthage
26	Justin, Kerry	CB	5-11	175	26	4	Oregon State
35	King, Leroy	FB	6-2	215	24	1	Texas
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	185	23	2	Milton
54	Kuehn, Art	C	6-3	255	28	6	UCLA
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	184	27	6	Tulsa
41	Lewis, Will	CB	5-9	185	23	2	Millersville
61	Lynch, Tom	G	6-5	260	26	5	Boston Coll.
84	McCullum, Sam	WR	6-2	190	29	8	Montana St.
30	McCutcheon	RB	6-1	205	31	10	Colorado St.
89	McGrath, Mark	WR	5-11	175	24	1	Montana St.
21	Minor, Vic	S	6-0	198	23	2	NE Louisiana
32	Moore, Jeff	RB	6-0	195	25	3	Jackson St.
16	Myer, Steve	QB	6-2	200	27	5	New Mexico
40	Newman, Don	DB	6-1	190	24	R	Idaho
78	Newton, Bob	G	6-5	260	32	11	Nebraska
52	Norman, Joe	LB	6-1	220	25	3	Indiana
88	Peets, Brian	TE	6-4	225	25	3	Pacific
83	Raible, Steve	WR	6-2	195	27	6	Georgia Tech
59	Rennaker, Terry	LB	6-6	225	23	2	Stanford
81	Sawyer, John	TE	6-2	230	28	6	So. Miss.
70	Sevy, Jeff	G	6-5	260	29	7	California
42	Simpson, Keith	S	6-1	195	25	4	Memphis St.
47	Smith, Sherman	RB	6-4	225	27	6	Miami O.
74	Tulasosopo, Manu	DT	6-3	252	24	3	UCLA
56	Walker, Tim	LB	6-1	230	23	2	Savannah St.
34	Walsh, Jim	FB	5-11	220	25	2	San Jose St.
18	Weaver, Herman	P	6-4	210	33	12	Tennessee
38	Webster, Cornell	CB	6-0	180	27	5	Tulsa
51	Yarno, John	C	6-5	251	27	5	Idaho
10	Zorn, Jim	QB	6-2	200	28	6	Cal. Pomona

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Easley, Kenny	S	6-3	206	22	UCLA
2	Hughes, David	FB	6-1	220	23	Boise St.
3	Dugan, Bill	G	6-4	271	22	Penn St.
4	Phillips, Scott	WR	6-2	185	22	Brigham Young
5	Bailey, Edwin	G	6-4	255	23	S.C. St.
6	Durham, Steve	DE	6-5	258	22	Clemson
7	Johnson, Ron	WR	6-3	180	21	Long Beach
7	Scovill, Brad	TE	6-3	221	21	Penn St.
8	Lane, Eric	RB	6-0	195	22	Brigham Young
9	Stone, Jim	RB	6-1	198	22	Notre Dame
9	Whately, Jim	WR	6-0	172	22	Washington St.
10	Dawson, Ken	RB	6-1	194	22	Savannah St.
11	Olander, Lance	RB	6-0	204	21	Colorado
12	Bednarek, Jeff	DT	6-4	252	22	Pacific

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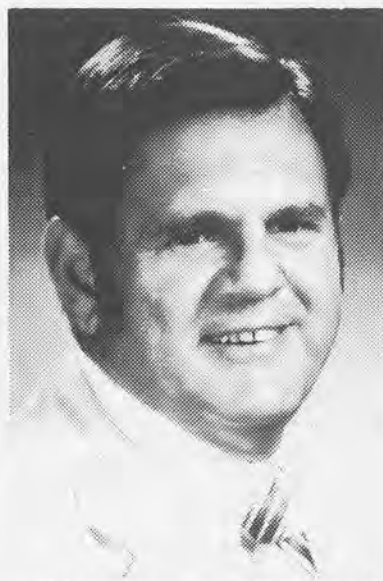
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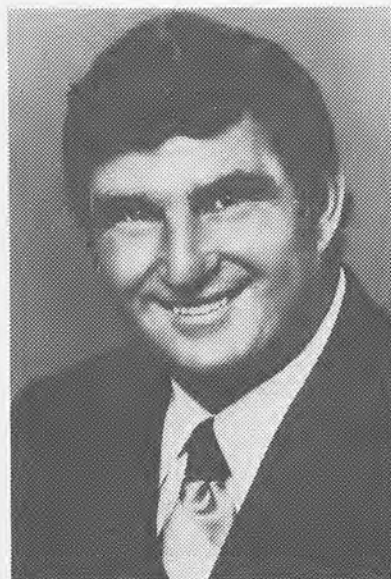


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AFC Central

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

It's the sort of situation which the Pittsburgh Steelers relish. They crowed last year that they would win "one for the thumb," meaning another Super Bowl ring. Then they didn't even qualify for the playoffs. Now people in football speak of the Steelers in the past tense, as if their era is dead.

Chuck Noll, the team's coldly logical coach, compares his team's decline of 1980 to that of a tournament golfer. One day he shoots a 63, the next day an 81.

"The difference is a stroke a hole," points out Noll, who suggests that another 63 is not unrealistic.

Joe Greene, the team's spiritual, if no longer physical, leader, says the Steelers' "dynasty hasn't been ended, just interrupted."

But Pittsburgh is the team of the 1970's and these are the 1980's. Nothing illustrates that reality more than the attitude of quarterback Terry Bradshaw, who put his Super Bowl rings in a safe-deposit box and went off in pursuit of a show business career last spring. Bradshaw's chances for a starring role in a proposed television series went down the tubes in a flush of negative reviews, but he still withheld his unlisted telephone number from the ball club and he still made it plain that all the talk of his possible return from football was a pain.

That sort of attitude does not come across well in Pittsburgh, even for all-time heroes. This is how the Steeler preseason prospectus treated the Bradshaw situation last spring:

"There is no question that Terry Bradshaw is the key man and the Steeler fortunes depend a great deal on him. In the pitch-and-catch game that NFL football has become, the name of the exercise is pass and Bradshaw throws as well or better than anyone when he is healthy."

"At 32, Bradshaw is in great shape physically and there is no doubt that he can play top-flight football for another three or four seasons, but the big question is how badly he wants to play. Has he had his fill of success with four Super Bowl triumphs, in two of which he won MVP honors? This is the question haunting Steeler brass and teammates. He is capable of bringing his team back to the top, but is he willing to make the sacrifices and go through the rigors winning requires?"

That isn't just a management reaction. Jack Lambert, the fiery middle linebacker and the present team leader, put it even more bluntly.

"He's been great for us, no question there. But if he has any misgivings about coming back, I hope he retires. If he doesn't have his heart in it, he'll hurt us more than he'll help us."

If Bradshaw had followed his new interests, the quarterback job would have gone to Cliff Stoudt, who has been on the roster for four seasons, but who started only one game in his pro career. Significantly, that came last year against Cleveland, which replaced the Steelers as champions of the American Conference's

Central division. Stoudt passed for 310 yards against the Browns.

"Cliff Stoudt can do the job," maintains Lambert. "He's a leader. The guys respect him and he's paid his dues."

Bradshaw did decide to return when it became apparent that the world of entertainment was not beating a path to his farm. Supposedly, any breach with the fans or the players was healed by his decision in late May. But Pittsburgh is not the West Coast, so show biz defections, even aborted ones, do not go down well with the blue-collar folks who follow their team. The Steelers themselves often reflect their community.

But Bradshaw has something with which he can work to defuse the resentment: one of the all-time great rosters of pass receivers. Even with John Stallworth, possibly the best all-around receiver in the game, missing all but three games due to injuries and with Lynn Swann hurt for a long stretch, Pittsburgh still finished seventh in the NFL in passing.

Jim Smith, Stallworth's replacement, caught nine touchdown passes. Theo Bell, Swann's fill-in, had the best per-catch average in the league, 25.8 yards. Three receivers caught more balls than Bell, but his 748 yards led the team. Another sub, Calvin Sweeney, averaged 23.5 yards on his dozen catches. Tight ends Randy Grossman and Bennie Cunningham caught 41 passes between them, but seldom in key situations. Cunningham remains an unblossomed flower.

Franco Harris had his worst pro season last

year, gaining just 789 yards and scoring only four touchdowns on the ground. But should that be any surprise for a running back, even one as good as Franco, at the age of 31? Franco does have some personal motivation this season. When he reaches 648 yards, he will be the third back in pro football history to run for 10,000 yards in his career. The other two are Jim Brown and O.J. Simpson.

But it could turn out that the Steelers will have a new backfield sometime during the season. That was the long-range plan for Sidney Thornton and Greg Hawthorne when they were drafted. Thornton was the starting halfback, who is really the blocker in the system, but injuries twice caused him to relinquish the job to veteran Rocky Bleier. Now Rocky is retired. Thornton averaged 5 yards a carry until he was hurt in 1979. Last year it was 4.2.

Hawthorne is Franco's obvious heir, but nagging injuries have kept him to cameo roles. Still, injuries or not, the Steelers wonder whether he'll ever make it big. Other possibilities include big fullback Russell Davis and Frank Pollard, who was a training camp phenom as a rookie last year. The only runner drafted this year was Rice's Frankie Wilson, an eighth-round pick.

The offensive line is full of veterans but also contains several questions. The biggest one concerns guard Sam Davis and whether he can come back from a serious knee injury in his 14th pro season. There is also the question of whether injuries will continue to nag 33-year-old tackle Job Kolb as they did the last two seasons.

One guard is almost certainly to be played by strongman Steve Courson, who missed too much of the 1980 season with an ankle injury. Davis, possibly veteran Ray Pinney, and second-year men Tyrone McGriff and Craig Wolfley will fight it out for the other job. McGriff was a surprise starter and an all-rookie pick.

1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 96 points on 19 field goals and 89 PAT's . 6th
RUSHING—Harris, 208 carries for 789 yards, 3.8 avg., 4 TD's . 8th
PASSING—Bradshaw, 218 of 424 attempts for 3,339 yards, 24 TD's . 6th
RECEIVING—Swann, 44 receptions for 710 yards, 16.1 avg., 7 TD's . 28th
INTERCEPTIONS—Shell, 7 for 135 yards, 19.3 avg . 4th
PUNTING—Colquitt, 61 punts, 40.7 avg., longest 54 yards . 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Bell, 34 for 339 yards, 10.0 avg . 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Pollard, 22 for 494 yards, 22.5 avg. . 7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At Cleveland (N)
15 At Philadelphia (N)
22 At Dallas (N)
29 NY GIANTS (N)

1981 SCHEDULE

September 6 KANSAS CITY
10 At Miami (N)
20 NY JETS
27 NEW ENGLAND
October 4 At New Orleans
11 CLEVELAND
18 At Cincinnati
28 HOUSTON (N)
November 1 SAN FRANCISCO
8 At Seattle
15 At Atlanta
22 At Cleveland
29 LOS ANGELES
December 7 At Oakland (N)
13 CINCINNATI
20 At Houston

1980 SCORES

21-16
23-10
—
—
16-13
28-30
31-17
—
26-27
34-45
16-17
0-6

Browns clinch title: Sam Rutigliano with Reggie Rucker and Lyle Alzado

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

Pittsburgh Steelers' coach Chuck Noll and quarterback Terry Bradshaw



after Davis was hurt. Wolfley was a far higher draft pick and has more potential.

If Pinney doesn't insert himself into the tackle spot between Kolb and Ted Petersen, he'll probably start opposite Courson at guard. The other tackle starter is Larry Brown, who was hampered by minor hurts last year. The key man on the offensive line is center Mike Webster, possibly the best in the league. He has a 119-game consecutive streak intact.

One of the most shocking aspects of the Steeler decline last year was the poor pass rush. The Steelers sacked opposing quarterbacks only 18 times. No other NFL team could come close to making that statement—or would want to. The next-worst record in the AFC was 26, by Seattle. By contrast, the league leader, San Diego, had 60 sacks. Even more astonishing was that the two most productive

pass rushers were end L.C. Greenwood and tackle Joe Greene, both of whom conceded to be past their prime, although Noll claims that Greenwood had one of his best years.

To juice up the assault on passers, the Steelers made Keith Gary, the swift Oklahoma defensive end, their top draft pick. He could team up with another Oklahoma end, John Goodman, in special situations. Goodman was the second pick in the 1980 draft, which served as a virtual taxi squad for the club. Along with Goodman, quarterback Mark Malone, safety Bill Hurley, and linebacker Bob Kohrs could be contributors this season. Kohrs also has possibilities at end, his college position. Greene, Steve Furness, Gary Dunn, and Tom Beasley will vie for work inside. John Banaszak is another veteran end. Other than Gary, no defensive linemen were drafted.

Linebacking is still the strength of the Steeler defense. Lambert is the top gunner, now that outside backer Jam Ham is 32. Robin Cole is becoming more established at the other outside position. Lambert makes a pointed observation about his teammates.

"Some guys on our team need to rearrange their priorities," he says. "Sometimes you forget your job as a Steeler is No. 1."

Free safety Donnie Shell is not only the best man in the secondary, but also was voted the Steelers' most valuable player in 1980. He was fourth on the team in tackles and first in interceptions, with seven. Three of his steals were game-savers. Mel Blount holds down one corner at age 33. Ron Johnson may get a two-pronged challenge from Dwayne Woodruff, fastest of the defensive backs, and rookie Anthony Washington of Fresno State, the No. 2 draftee. Washington is a feisty guy who can cover one-on-one. With Mike Wagner retired, J.T. Thomas and Hurley battle for the free-safety job. Johnson may be a late entrant.

Place-kicker Matt Bahr was sixth in the AFC in field-goal percentage, 19 of 28 for .679, but he was less than satisfactory from the 35-yard line and beyond. Punter Craig Colquitt ranked seventh in the conference.

The Steelers were just 2-4 against AFC Central opponents last year. They don't play a division opponent until the sixth game this year, but then they meet three in a row: Cleveland, at Cincinnati, and Houston in October. That should be a fair gauge of whether the dynasty has ended or was merely interrupted.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Every team likes to think of itself in terms of character. All coaches talk character. But too often it is just talk, cheap talk. Not with the Cleveland Browns. They live it. The Browns aren't blessed with skills and they admit it.

"This is a team of overachievers," is the candid assessment of Art Modell, the owner. Brian Sipe, the masterful quarterback and personification of the overachiever image, agrees.

"I don't think we're exceptionally talented," admits Sipe. "Actually, we're not far above average in raw talent. I include myself in that evaluation. We're a team which plays a little above its head most of the time. That's the kind of club I enjoy playing with."

Dick Ambrose, the inside linebacker who is another graphic example of what playing beyond one's limits can result in, offers a slight alteration of that opinion. "We have talent on this team," he says, "but the coaches and players get the most out of what's here."

Backing up that talk is the team's record for the last two seasons. In 1979, 12 of the Browns' 16 games went to the last two minutes before they were decided. Last year it was 13 of 17. Cleveland wins most of those close ones, but even when it does lose, the team always seems to produce something positive out of the defeat.

Take the next-to-last game against the Minnesota Vikings in 1980. It was a game in which the Browns led until the final play. The victory would have clinched the championship of the AFC Central. A miracle long pass, Tommy Kramer to Ahmad Rashad, won it for the Vikings. Seasons, even entire programs, can be destroyed by losses of that nature. But Sam Rutigliano, the Brooklyn philosopher who coaches the team, had enough composure to analyze what happened on a postgame television interview.

"Sam told us it was a loss, but it was no different from any other loss," says Marty Schottenheimer, the defensive coordinator. "He didn't take it out on the players, make them work extra or do extra drills. That's the beautiful thing about Sam. He always stays on an even keel."

Even when the Browns disdained a field goal attempt late in their playoff game against Oakland last year, only to have Sipe's end zone pass, on second down, intercepted by the Raiders' Mike Davis, the Browns understood what Rutigliano was doing: staying in character.

The Browns are a high-risk, reckless sort of offensive team. That's what has got them as far as they have traveled in Rutigliano's short tenure. When they fail, there is no cursing or gnashing of teeth. Sam has sold them on the nobility of making the big stab at victory.

"That's why they call us the Cardiac Kids," explained tight end Ozzie Newsome, after the loss to Oakland. "We live by the pass... and we die by the pass."

Sipe, acclaimed as the NFL's player of the year in 1980, passed for 4,132 yards and 30 touchdowns. He spreads the work around. Five

1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Cockroft, 87 points on 16 field goals and 39 PAT's... 8th
RUSHING—M. Pruitt, 249 carries for 1,034 yards, 4.2 avg., 6 TD's... 3rd
PASSING—Sipe, 337 of 554 attempts for 4,132 yards, 30 TD's... 1st
RECEIVING—M. Pruitt, 63 receptions for 471 yards, 7.5 avg... 5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Bolton, 6 for 62 yards, 10.3 avg... 11th
PUNTING—Evans, 86 punts, 38.3 avg., longest 56 yards... 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Wright, 29 for 129 yds, 4.4 avg... 15th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Wright, 25 for 576 yards, 23.0 avg... 4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 1 Atlanta (Hall of Fame game at Canton)
8 PITTSBURGH (N)
15 At Buffalo (N)
22 BUFFALO (N)
29 At Green Bay (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September 7 SAN DIEGO (N) —
13 HOUSTON 7-16
20 At Cincinnati 27-24
27 ATLANTA —
October 4 At Los Angeles —
11 At Pittsburgh 13-16
18 NEW ORLEANS —
25 BALTIMORE 28-27
November 1 At Buffalo —
8 At Denver 16-19
15 At San Francisco —
22 PITTSBURGH 27-26
29 CINCINNATI 31-7
December 3 At Houston (N) 17-14
12 NY JETS 17-14
20 At Seattle 27-3

STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

NFL									
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college		
33	Anderson, Larry	CB	5-11	177	25	4	La. Tech		
9	Bahr, Matt	PK	5-10	185	25	3	Penn St.		
76	Banaszak, John	DE	6-3	244	31	7	E. Michigan		
65	Beasley, Tom	DL	6-5	253	27	4	Virginia Tech		
83	Bell, Theo	WR	5-11	180	28	5	Arizona		
47	Blount, Mel	CB	6-3	205	33	12	Southern U.		
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6-3	215	33	12	La. Tech		
79	Brown, Larry	OT	6-4	265	32	11	Kansas		
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6-2	220	26	5	New Mexico		
5	Colquitt, Craig	P	6-1½	182	27	4	Tennessee		
77	Courson, Steve	G	6-1	260	26	4	S. Carolina		
89	Cunningham, Bennie	TE	6-5	247	27	6	Clemson		
45	Davis, Russell	RB	6-1	215	25	2	Michigan		
57	Davis, Sam	G	6-1	255	37	14	Allen U.		
67	Dunn, Gary	DL	6-3	247	28	5	Miami		
21	Ferranti, Jim	WR	5-9	160	24	1	Youngstown		
64	Furness, Steve	DL	6-4	255	31	10	Rhode Island		
95	Goodman, John	DE	6-6	250	23	1	Oklahoma		
75	Greene, Joe	DT	6-4	260	35	13	N. Texas St.		
68	Greenwood, L.C.	DE	6½	250	35	13	Ark. AM & N		
84	Grossman, Randy	TE	6-1	225	29	8	Temple		
59	Ham, Jack	LB	6-1	225	33	11	Penn St.		
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6-2	225	31	10	Penn St.		
27	Hawthorne, Greg	RB	6½	225	25	3	Baylor		
22	Hurley, Bill	DB	5-11	195	24	1	Syracuse		
62	Ikkin, Tunch	OT	6-3	253	24	2	Indiana St.		
29	Johnson, Ron	CB	5-10	200	25	4	E. Michigan		
50	Kohrs, Bob	LB	6-3	224	23	1	Anzona St.		
55	Kolb, Jon	DT	6-2	262	34	13	Okl. St.		
58	Lambert, Jack	LB	6-4	220	29	8	Kent St.		
16	Malone, Mark	QB	6-4	223	23	2	Arizona St.		
61	McGriff, Tyrone	G	6-0	267	23	2	Florida A & M		
41	Moriarty, Tom	S	6-0	180	28	5	Bowl. Green		
66	Petersen, Ted	OL	6-5	244	26	5	E. Illinois		
74	Pinney, Ray	OL	6-4	240	27	5	Washington		
44	Pollard, Frank	RB	5-10	210	24	2	Baylor		
31	Shell, Donnie	S	5-11	190	29	8	S.C. St.		
86	Smith, Jim	WR	6-2	205	26	5	Michigan		
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6-2	183	29	8	Alabama A & M		
18	Stout, Cliff	QB	6-4	218	26	5	Youngstown		
88	Swann, Lynn	WR	6-0	180	29	8	USC		
85	Sweeney, Calvin	WR	6-2	190	26	2	USC		
24	Thomas, J.T.	DB	6-2	196	30	8	Florida St.		
38	Thornton, Sidney	RB	5-11	230	27	5	NW La.		
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6-3	220	30	9	California		
54	Valentine, Zack	LB	6-2	220	24	3	E. Carolina		
36	Walton, Ted	DB	5-10	195	24	1	Connecticut		
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-1½	255	29	8	Wisconsin		
53	Winston, Dennis	LB	6-0	228	26	5	Arkansas		
73	Wolfley, Craig	G	6-1	258	23	2	Syracuse		
49	Woodruff, Dwayne	CB	5-11	189	24	3	Louisville		

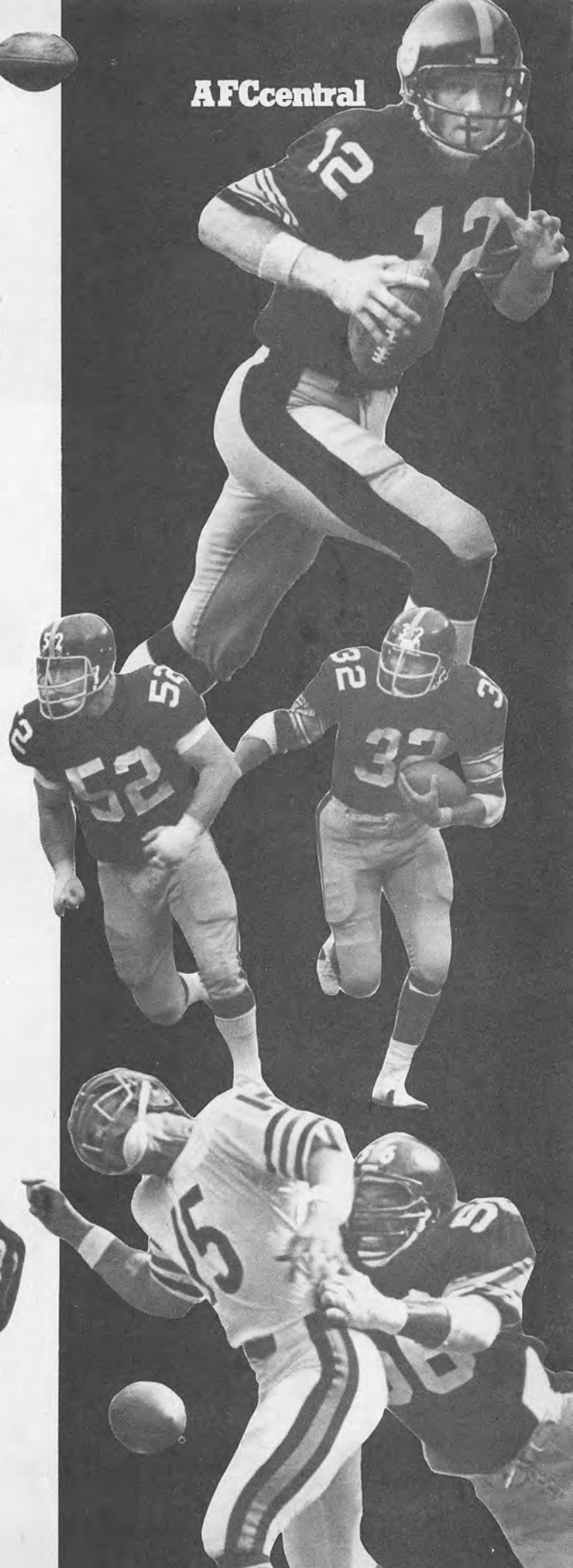
DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Gary, Keith	DE	6-3	257	21	Oklahoma
2	Washington, Anthony	CB	6-1	204	23	Fresno St.
3	Donnalley, Rick	C-G	6-2	247	22	N. Carolina
4	Martin, Robbie	WR	5-8	181	22	Cal Poly-SLO
5	Martin, Ricky	WR	6-2	201	22	New Mexico
6	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6-1	214	21	Oregon
7	Little, David	LB	6-1	220	22	Florida
8	Wilson, Frank	RB-TE	6-2	233	22	Rice
9	Hunter, James	TE-OT	6-4	226	23	USC
10	Mayock, Mike	S	6-2	210	22	Boston Coll.
11	Troceno, Rick	QB-S	6-0	188	22	Pittsburgh

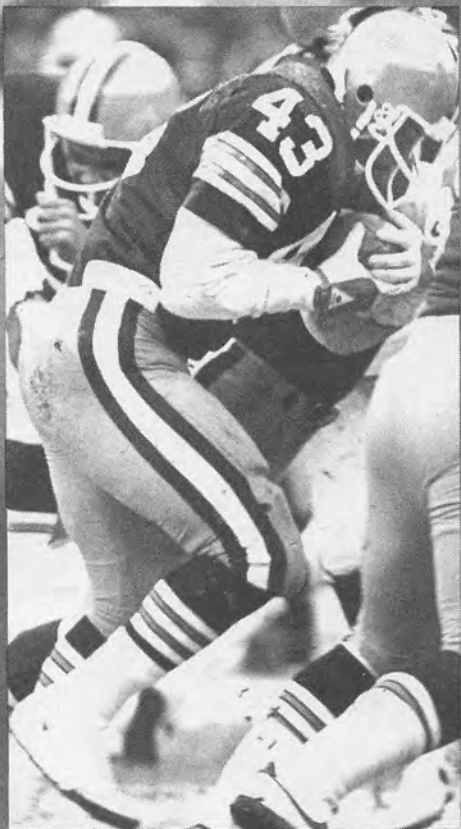


Pittsburgh Steelers:
 receivers Jim Smith
 (#86) and John Stallworth
 (#82), quarterback Terry
 Bradshaw (#12), center
 Mike Webster (#52) with
 running back Franco
 Harris (#32), linebacker
 Robin Cole (#56), and
 safety Donnie Shell
 (#31)

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of his receivers caught 50 passes or more. Two who didn't, Calvin Hill and Ricky Feacher, caught six and four touchdown passes, respectively. The starting three of Dave Logan and Reggie Rucker at outside receivers and New-some at tight end combined for 154 catches, 2,184 yards, and 11 touchdowns. Fullback Mike Pruitt led the club with 63 catches and running back Greg Pruitt had 50.

Mike Pruitt constituted the rushing game in 1980. He ran for 1,034 yards and six touchdowns. The next most productive back was rookie Charles White, the disappointing Heisman Trophy winner from Southern California. He gained only 269 yards and was benched for the last month. He was also involved in a halftime altercation with veteran center Tom

DeLeone in a game against Pittsburgh and did not win high marks for his attitude.

With Greg Pruitt no longer able to perform full-time as a ball carrier—he carried only 40 times for a 2.9-yard average—the Browns looked for help elsewhere, trading for Terry Miller, a rookie star with Buffalo three seasons ago but mired in a two-year slump since then. Calvin Hill is strictly a pass-receiving halfback at age 34.

One of the strongest areas on offense is the line. Three of its members, DeLeone, tackle Doug Dieken, and guard Joe DeLamielleure, went to the Pro Bowl. DeLamielleure, acquired from Buffalo for two second-round draft picks after a personality conflict with Bills' coach Chuck Knox, was a special bargain for Cleveland. Since he'll spend his first training camp with the Browns this year, he should be even more valuable. The other two line starters are tackle Cody Risien and guard Henry Sheppard. The bench features two one-time starters, guard Robert E. Jackson and center-tackle Gerry Sullivan.

The Brown's problems run deepest on defense. The first five draft choices were defensive players. The first two were cornerback Hanford Dixon and tackle Mike Robinson.

Dixon, considered by a consensus of scouts as the best pure cornerback in the draft, might have more trouble moving into a starting job right away than will Robinson. The team's aging secondary includes 31-year-old Ron Bolton at left corner, but the Cleveland coaches felt Bolton had a Pro Bowl season in 1980. The other corner is young Clinton Burrell. The safeties are 32-year-old Clarence Scott on the strong side and 31-year-old Thom Darden at free. The depth consists of Oliver Davis, Lawrence Johnson, and Autry Beamon.

Robinson was not selected until the fourth round, which was due more to his reputation than to his ability. It also didn't help that he's already 25. But the Browns need linemen badly. In one vital game late last year their three-man front included commercial artist Marshall Harris, truck driver Henry Bradley, and an unknown rookie, Elvis Franks. With no pressure being put upon New York Jet quarterback Richard Todd, veteran end Lyle Alzado tried to sneak himself back into the game despite orders to stay on the bench and rest an injury.

The Browns also drafted All-America nose tackle Ron Simmons of Florida State, a long shot because of his lack of height, and big Dean Prater of Oklahoma State. Jerry Sher, once the best defensive lineman in the NFL, plans to give it another try, but he actually hasn't played in the last two seasons because of serious knee injuries. The Browns had 32 sacks last year, with Alzado accounting for nine of them.

The linebacking is much better. Ambrose and Robert L. Jackson chop up the inside running game. Clay Matthews, justifying the first-round pick the Browns used on him three years ago, is turning into a first-rate weak-side blitzer. Charlie Hall, still spry at 32, plays the strong side. Eddie Johnson of Louisville was the only linebacker drafted. The bench includes Don Goode, ex-tight end Curtis Weathers, John Mohring, and Bill Cowher.

There can be a change in the entire kicking game and rookie Steve Cox may cause all of it. He already has the punting job, since Johnny Evans was traded to the Bills. Now he'll take aim at Don Cockroft's place-kicking assignment. Cockroft was 16-for-26 in field goal accuracy, but Rutigliano showed lack of con-

fidence in him in the playoff game. Don is 36, which doesn't help. Keith Wright was eighth in the NFL in kickoff returns, but nothing special returning punts.

HOUSTON OILERS

For years, Ed Biles wanted a head coaching job in the NFL. There were many NFL people who felt he was overdue for it. When Houston Oilers' owner Bud Adams sacked his head coach, Bum Phillips, last New Year's Eve, Biles got the opportunity he had been seeking. The trouble is that now Biles is on the hottest spot in the NFL. There are a number of reasons for the heat:

1. Working for Adams. That alone, because of the boss's unpredictability and ego, is enough.

1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Fritsch, 83 points on 19 field goals and 26 PAT's. 9th
RUSHING—Campbell, 373 carries for 1,934 yards, 5.2 avg., 13 TD's. 1st
PASSING—Stabler, 293 of 457 attempts for 3,202 yards, 13 TD's. 11th
RECEIVING—Barber, 59 receptions for 712 yards, 12.1 avg., 5 TD's. 8th
INTERCEPTIONS—Tatum, 7 for 100 yards, 14.3 avg. 6th
PUNTING—Parsley, 67 punts, 40.7 avg., longest 57 yards. 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Roaches, 47 for 384 yards, 8.2 avg. 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Roaches, 37 for 746 yards, 20.2 avg. 13th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 PHILADELPHIA (N)
15 At New Orleans (N)
22 At Tampa Bay (N)
29 At Dallas (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September 6 At Los Angeles 16-7
13 At Cleveland 16-7
20 MIAMI
27 At NY Jets (OT) 28-31
October 4 CINCINNATI 23-3
11 SEATTLE 7-26
18 At New England 38-34
26 At Pittsburgh (N) 17-31
November 1 At Cincinnati 13-10
8 OAKLAND 20-21
15 At Kansas City
22 NEW ORLEANS
29 ATLANTA
December 3 CLEVELAND (N) 14-17
13 At San Francisco
20 PITTSBURGH 6-0

2. Succeeding Phillips, who led the Oilers to three consecutive playoff appearances, two of which ended in the AFC final.

3. Earl Campbell, the game's top player, was a Phillips' guy and he demanded a \$1 million-a-year renegotiation of his contract after the firing of Bum.

4. The team is saddled with Kenny Stabler, who can't throw the football anymore, as its quarterback.



Browns' center Tom DeLeone

BROWNS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
80	Adams, Willis	WR	6-2	194	25	3	Houston
77	Alzado, Lyle	DE	6-3	250	32	11	Yankton
52	Ambrose, Dick	LB	6-0	228	28	7	Virginia
24	Beamon, Autry	S	6-1	190	28	7	E. Texas St.
28	Bolton, Ron	CB	6-2	170	31	10	Norfolk St.
91	Bradley, Henry	DT	6-2	260	28	3	Alcorn
49	Burrell, Clinton	CB	6-1	192	25	3	LSU
12	Cockroft, Don	K	6-1	195	36	14	Adams St.
53	Cowher, Bill	LB	6-3	225	24	2	N. C. St.
93	Crews, Ron	DT	6-3	256	25	2	Las Vegas
27	Darden, Thom	S	6-2	193	31	9	Michigan
21	Davis, Oliver	CB	6-1	205	27	5	Tenn. St.
64	DeLamielleure, Joe	G	6-3	245	30	9	Mich. St.
54	DeLeone, Tom	C	6-2	248	31	10	Ohio St.
73	Dieken, Doug	T	6-5	252	32	11	Illinois
83	Feacher, Ricky	WR	5-10	174	27	6	Miss. Valley
20	Flint, Judson	CB	6-0	201	24	2	Memphis St.
94	Franks, Elvis	DE	6-4	238	22	2	Morgan St.
50	Goode, Don	LB	6-2	231	30	8	Kansas
59	Hall, Charlie	LB	6-3	235	33	11	Houston
26	Hall, Dino	RB	5-7	165	26	3	Glassboro
90	Harris, Marshall	DE	6-6	261	26	2	TCU
	Heath, Jo Jo	DB	5-10	182	24	2	Pittsburgh
35	Hill, Calvin	RB	6-4	227	34	12	Yale
96	Jackson, Marcus	G	6-2	261	24	2	Purdue
68	Jackson, Robert E.	G	5-5	260	28	7	Duke
56	Jackson, Robert L.	LB	6-1	230	27	4	Texas A & M
48	Johnson, Lawrence	CB	5-11	204	24	3	Wisconsin
85	Logan, Dave	WR	6-4	216	27	6	Colorado
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	230	25	4	USC
16	McDonald, Paul	DB	6-2	185	23	2	USC
30	Miller, Cleo	FB	5-11	214	29	8	Pine Bluff
71	Miller, Matt	T	6-6	270	25	2	Colorado
	Miller, Terry	RB	5-10	196	25	4	Okl. St.
55	Mohring, John	LB	6-3	230	25	2	C.W. Post
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	232	25	4	Alabama
84	Oden, McDonald	TE	6-4	228	23	1	Tenn. St.
58	Odum, Clinton	LB	6-2	220	23	2	Arlington
69	Patten, Joel	T	6-6	240	23	1	Duke
34	Pruitt, Greg	RB	5-10	190	30	9	Oklahoma
43	Pruitt, Mike	FB	6-0	225	27	6	Purdue
63	Risien, Cody	T	6-7	255	24	3	Texas A & M
33	Rucker, Reggie	WR	6-2	190	34	12	Boston U.
22	Scott, Clarence	S	6-0	190	32	11	Kansas St.
65	Sheppard, Henry	OL	6-6	263	29	6	SMU
72	Sherk, Jerry	DT	6-4	250	33	12	Okl. St.
17	Sipe, Brian	QB	6-1	195	32	8	San Diego St.
79	Sullivan, Gerry	OL	6-4	250	29	8	Illinois
87	Weathers, Curtis	TE	6-5	220	25	3	Mississippi
25	White, Charles	RB	5-10	183	23	1	USC
89	Wright, Keith	WR	5-9	175	25	4	Memphis St.

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Dixon, Hanford	DB	5-11	180	23	S. Mississippi
4	Robinson, Mike	DE	6-4	250	25	Arizona
5	Cox, Steve	K	6-3	196	23	Arkansas
6	Simmons, Ron	DL	6-1	240	22	Florida St.
7	Johnson, Eddie	LB	6-2	218	22	Louisville
9	Schleusener, Randy	OG	6-6	242	24	Nebraska
10	Prater, Dean	DT	6-6	245	23	Okl. St.
11	Friday, Larry	S	6-4	205	23	Miss. St.
12	McGill, Kevin	OT	6-7	266	23	Oregon

Cleveland quarterback Brian Sipe (#17) gets offensive support from fullback Mike Pruitt (#43) and wide receiver Dave Logan (#85).



OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

		NFL									
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college				
39	Armstrong, Adger	RB	6-0	210	24	2	Texas A&M				
11	Bailey, Harold	QB/WR	6-2	195	24	1	Oklahoma St.				
75	Baker, Jesse	DE	6-5	265	24	3	Jackville St.				
86	Barber, Mike	TE	6-3	225	28	5	La Tech				
24	Barnes, Thomas	RB	5-11	206	24	1	Southwest Texas				
65	Bethea, Elvin	DE	6-2	255	35	14	NC A&T				
54	Bingham, Gregg	LB	6-1	230	30	9	Purdue				
10	Bradshaw, Craig	QB	6-5	215	24	2	Utah State				
52	Brazile, Robert	LB	6-4	230	28	7	Jackson St.				
00	Burroughs, Ken	WR	6-3	210	33	11	Texas So.				
34	Campbell, Earl	RB	5-11	224	26	4	Texas				
26	Carpenter, Rob	RB	6-1	230	26	5	Miami (Ohio)				
58	Carter, David	G/C	6-2	245	28	5	W. Kentucky				
87	Casper, Dave	TE	6-4	230	30	8	Notre Dame				
88	Caster, Rich	TE	6-5	230	33	12	Jackson St.				
42	Clark, Boobie	RB	6-2	245	31	9	Beth-Cookman				
47	Coleman, Ronnie	RB	5-11	198	30	8	Alabama A&M				
57	Corker, John	LB	6-5	240	23	2	Oklahoma St.				
66	Davidson, Greg	C	6-2	250	23	2	N. Texas St.				
69	Dorris, Andy	DE	6-4	240	30	9	New Mexico St.				
77	Fields, Angelo	OT	6-6	330	24	2	Michigan St.				
60	Fisher, Ed	OG	6-3	250	32	8	Arizona St.				
16	Fritsch, Toni	K	5-7	180	36	10	None				
74	Gray, Leon	OT	6-3	260	30	9	Jackson St.				
81	Groth, Jeff	WR	5-10	172	24	3	Bowling Green				
36	Hartwig, Carter	CB	6-0	205	25	3	USC				
70	Hayman, Conway	OT	6-3	270	32	7	Delaware				
50	Hunt, Daryl	LB	6-3	220	25	3	Oklahoma				
21	Jefferson, Charles	DB	6-0	178	24	2	McNeese St.				
71	Kennard, Ken	MG	6-2	245	27	5	Angelo St.				
55	Mauck, Carl	C	6-4	250	34	12	S. Illinois				
	Mitchell, Mack	DE	6-7	253	29	6	Houston				
14	Nielsen, Gifford	QB	6-4	205	27	4	Brigham Young				
18	Parsley, Cliff	P	6-1	211	27	5	Oklahoma St.				
61	Payne, Darryl	OG	6-3	247	24	1	Bishop				
32	Perry, Vernon	SS	6-2	211	28	3	Jackson St.				
64	Reinher, George	OG	6-4	263	26	4	Penn St.				
37	Reinfield, Mike	WS	6-2	195	28	7	Wis. (Mil.)				
82	Renfro, Mike	WR	6-0	184	26	4	TCU				
65	Roaches, Carl	WR	5-8	165	28	2	Texas A&M				
82	Schuhmacher, J.	OG	6-3	275	26	3	USC				
90	Skaugstad, Daryle	MG	6-5	260	24	1	Cal-Berkeley				
83	Smith, Tim	WR/P	6-2	192	24	2	Nebraska				
12	Stabler, Ken	QB	6-3	210	36	12	Alabama				
27	Stemrick, Greg	CB	5-11	185	30	7	Colorado St.				
67	Stensrud, Mike	DE	6-5	280	25	3	Iowa St.				
53	Stringer, Art	LB	6-2	223	27	5	Ball St.				
51	Thompson, Ted	LB	6-1	220	28	7	SMU				
76	Towns, Morris	OT	6-4	275	30	4	Missouri				
59	Washington, Ted	LB	6-2	245	33	9	Miss. Valley				
33	Wilson, J.C.	CB	6-0	177	25	4	Pittsburgh				
45	Wilson, Tim	RB	6-3	220	26	5	Maryland				
79	Young, Bob	OG	6-1	279	39	16	Howard Payne				

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
3	Holston, Michael	WR	6-3	183	23	Morgan St.
4	Eyre, Nick	OT	6-5	276	22	Brigham Young
5	Fowler, Delbert	LB	6-2	215	23	W. Virginia
6	Kay, Bill	DB	6-2	194	21	Purdue
7	Washington, Don	DB	6-0	181	23	Texas A&I
8	Tullis, Willie	WR	5-11	190	23	Troy St.
9	Riley, Avon	LB	6-3	213	23	UCLA
10	Jones, Larry	RB	5-10	184	22	Colorado St.
11	Mathews, Claude	OT	6-2	254	23	Auburn
12	Capece, Bill	K	5-7	170	22	Florida St.

5. The team is saddled with Dave Casper at tight end. Casper is one of the most skilled players and one of the most notorious of moaners in the league. The Oilers offered him around in a trade at the time of the draft. The price was far less than they paid Oakland for him last year. There were no takers.

6. Leon Gray, once the league's best tackle and Campbell's most reliable blocker, suffered an Achilles tendon injury late last year and it still clouds his future.

Other than that, Biles's rookie season as a pro head coach should be a cakewalk. Since Biles was the team's defensive coordinator before his abrupt promotion in the waning hours of 1980, he knows that unit is in pretty good shape. It plays the pass, stops the run, and does all the other stuff about as well as most. It's on offense that the problems start.

The Oilers rolled up the second-highest yardage in the American Conference last year, but finished 10th in scoring. The double tight end formation which Phillips used as his basic attack for most of the season was ridiculed by one veteran coach on another top team as "the worst I ever saw in my entire pro career."

The offensive line protected Stabler well—only 27 sacks—but Kenny threw 28 interceptions. Only Richard Todd of the New York Jets had more in the entire NFL. Stabler's percentage of interceptions was a whopping 6.1. Compare that to Brian Sipe's 2.5, and consider that the Cleveland quarterback threw almost 100 more passes, most of them of higher risk than those Stabler attempted.

When the Oilers were embarrassed by Oakland, 27-7, in the wild-card segment of the playoffs, Raider cornerback Lester Hayes was even sent to blitz Stabler, and the play was successful. It was that game which exposed the frailty of Stabler throwing to his conservative targets in Phillips's two-tight-end system, countered by continual use of Campbell as the only ball-carrier.

"You play Vince Lombardi football against them," explained Hayes. "Brawn against brawn. They don't trap block, they don't zone block, and they don't slide block. They just hit you with their power. It's like a high school offense, brawn football."

Campbell had another spectacular season, 1,934 yards (second best in NFL history), 13 touchdowns, and a 5.2-yard per-carry average. The passing game revolved around play-action off Campbell's running. Stop Campbell and you stop the whole Houston offense. Oakland did and so did some other good defenses.

"We will not have a simple, Earl Campbell-type football team this year," promised Biles. "[We hope] Earl will get the same yards on fewer calls. But we want to get all of our talent into the offense. We will be more balanced."

One man who definitely wants more of the action is Rob Carpenter, Campbell's backup, who was the second-leading ground gainer with 359 yards. Carpenter also caught 43 passes. Campbell caught just 11, but he may be used more frequently as a target this season. Fullback Tim Wilson, who had a 3.9-yard average on 66 carries, is basically a blocker for Campbell.

The top receiver was tight end Mike Barber, who caught 59 passes but later asked to be

traded. Casper caught 34 after coming from Oakland early in the season. He caught 56 in all. Ken Burroughs, the top deep threat, was hurt most of the season and caught just four passes. Mike Renfro, who starred in the previous season's playoffs, was virtually forgotten.

The offensive line is equipped to play the type of football Hayes talked about: brawn. One example is guard Bob Young, who, despite his age, excelled for Phillips. Among the strongest players in football, Young played out his contract and received a large offer from Phillips's new team, New Orleans. But then Houston matched the offer and kept him, at age 39. That move might tell a lot about how much more versatile the Houston offense will be this season.

On the other hand, Biles hired some impressive new offensive assistants: backfield coach Elijah Pitts from Buffalo, ex-Washington line coach Ray Callahan, and Jim Shofner from Cleveland as the offensive coordinator. Phillips's refusal to hire an offensive coordinator was one of the reasons Adams cited for firing Bum.

The rest of the offensive line is big and bulky: Ed Fisher opposite Young, Carl Mauck at center, Morris Towns and Angelo Fields at tackle. Fields is the biggest and bulkiest of all, but he'll be moved out if Gray manages a complete comeback.



Linebackers Ted Washington (#59), Daryl Hunt (#50), and Gregg Bingham (#54) lead defense and tight end Mike Barber offense for Houston.

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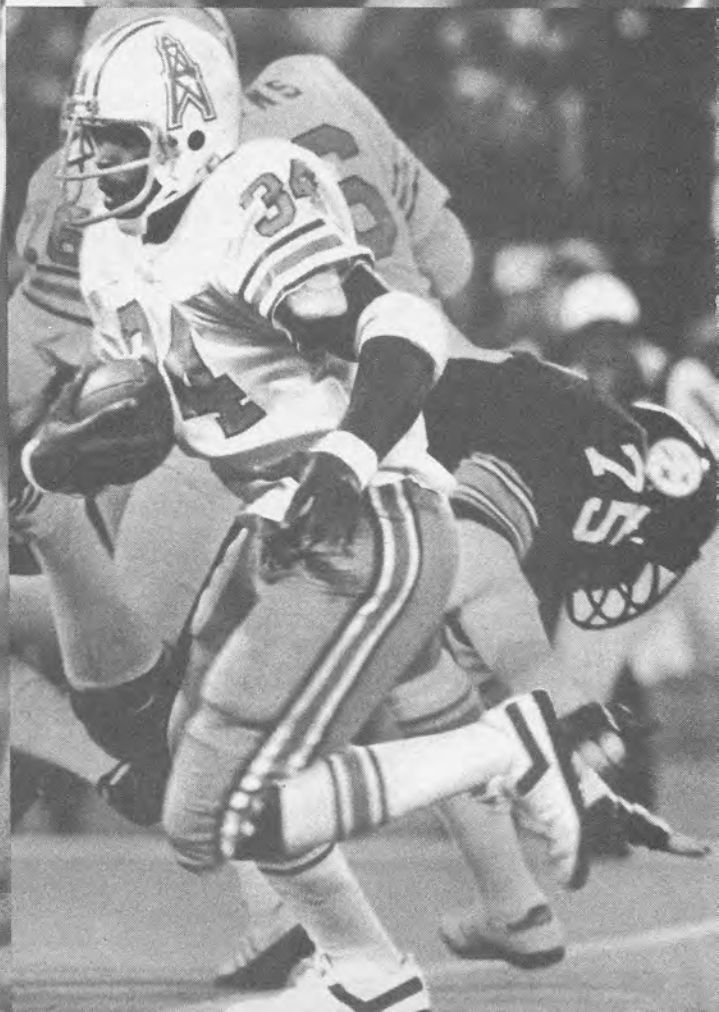
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AFCcentral



Oiler quarterback Ken Stabler has the luxury of handing off to the AFC's top rusher, Earl Campbell.



Behind Stabler is Gifford Nielsen, once considered the quarterback of the future for Houston. He got to throw only four passes last year, two of which were completed, one for a touchdown. Craig Bradshaw, Terry's younger brother, is behind him.

Defensively, the picture is bright. The three-man line is now really a five-man operation, with the two best pass rushers, Mike Stensrud and Jess Baker, coming in to relieve the veteran ends, Andy Dorris and Elvin Bethea. Ken Kenard struts at nose tackle.

The principal strength is in the linebacking. Outside backers Robert Brazile, the All-Pro, and Ted Washington have been together with inside backer Gregg Bingham for seven years. They function smoothly as well as fiercely. Bingham, who had 112 tackles and 100 assists to lead the team, virtually called for the firing of Phillips after the season, publicly criticizing his unimaginative offense. There will be some resentment, but Bingham is a full-speed-ahead character.

The secondary remains the same, with Greg Stemrick and J.C. Wilson at corners, Mike Reinfeldt at free safety, and Vernon Perry at strong safety. The surprise was that nickel back Jack Tatum, not noted for great hands, led the Oilers in interceptions with seven. He was released prior to the opening of training camp this season.

Top reserves at linebacker are John Corker, Tommy Thompson, and Art Stringer. The chief bench inhabitant for the secondary is Carter Hartwig.

Tony Fritsch led the AFC in field goal kicking for the second straight year. He now has 40 field goals in his last 49 tries. Punter Cliff Parsley is satisfactory. Fritsch got hurt late last year, so, as a precaution, the Oilers drafted Bill Capece, the Florida State kicker.

Houston traded away its first two picks in the draft. The top choices from what was left include Morgan State wide receiver Michael Holston, Brigham Young offensive tackle Nick Eyre, West Virginia linebacker Del Fowler, and Purdue defensive back Bill Kay.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Judging from what the Cincinnati Bengals did at the end of last season, one might think that 1981 should be a brighter year for them. In the last month of the season, the Bengals defeated Kansas City, Baltimore, and Chicago, then carried the Cleveland Browns to the last two minutes before allowing them to win the division championship.

But the Bengals' fast finishes can be deceiving. In 1978, they closed by thumping three consecutive winning teams, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Cleveland. Homer Rice's future as coach looked rosy. Brighter things were predicted for 1979. Cincinnati finished 4-12, just as it had in 1978. Homer Rice was canned.

This season may be different. The Bengals were 6-10 last year, their first experience under Forrest Gregg. Gregg seems to have changed his approach from the Captain Bligh image he had in Cleveland. His players gave him high marks for understanding last season. Maybe being fired by the Browns and spending a couple of seasons with Toronto of the Canadian Football League convinced him he doesn't have to be the reincarnation of his old coach Vince Lombardi to succeed.

One of the first things Gregg did was hire Hank Bullough, the ex-New England defensive coordinator, to install the 3-4 defense. The

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL



Cornerback Ken Riley, in his 13th season, is an original Bengal.

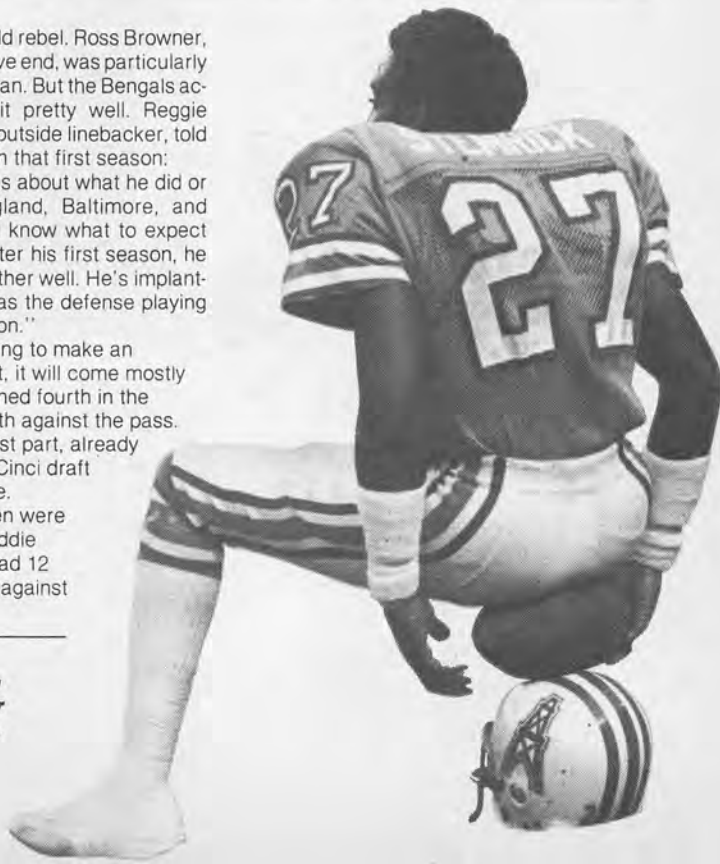
players vowed they would rebel. Ross Browner, the big, talented defensive end, was particularly outspoken against the plan. But the Bengals accepted it and played it pretty well. Reggie Williams, the seasoned outside linebacker, told how it was with Bullough that first season:

"I heard a lot of things about what he did or didn't do in New England, Baltimore, and Michigan State. I didn't know what to expect when he came here. After his first season, he has things melding together well. He's implanting his ideas [and] he has the defense playing with a lot more motivation."

If the Bengals are going to make an immediate improvement, it will come mostly with defense. They finished fourth in the NFL against the run, 13th against the pass. The talent is, for the most part, already in the lineup. The 1981 Cincinnati draft concentrated on offense.

All three down linemen were once high draft picks. Eddie Edwards, the left end, had 12 quarterback sacks, five against Cleveland's

Cornerback Greg Stemrick is part of a strong Houston Oiler defensive backfield.



Brian Sipe, one of the best-protected passers in the league. Wilson Whitley struggled at times with the unfamiliar nose tackle assignment, but Browner is still a potential All-Pro. There is veteran depth with Gary Burley, who missed most of the season due to injuries, and Mike St. Clair.

The 3-4 gave Glenn Cameron, another former first-rounder, a chance to start alongside Jim LeClair and he did a sound job. They jam up the inside running. Williams and Bo Harris, who cover receivers well, play the outside. Tom Dinkel starts some and rookie Guy Frazier joins Ron Simpkins, Andrew Melontree, Howie Kurnick, and Rick Razzano looking for work.

Ken Riley starts his 13th season at corner. He came with the franchise, but his eventual successor might have been drafted when the Bengals picked John Simmons of Southern Methodist. Louis Breeden plays the other corner. Two rookies, Greg Bright and Bryan Hicks, finished the season at safeties. Hicks replaced the injured Dick Jauron at free safety. Bright plays the strong side. Ray Griffin, a backup corner, also can play safety.

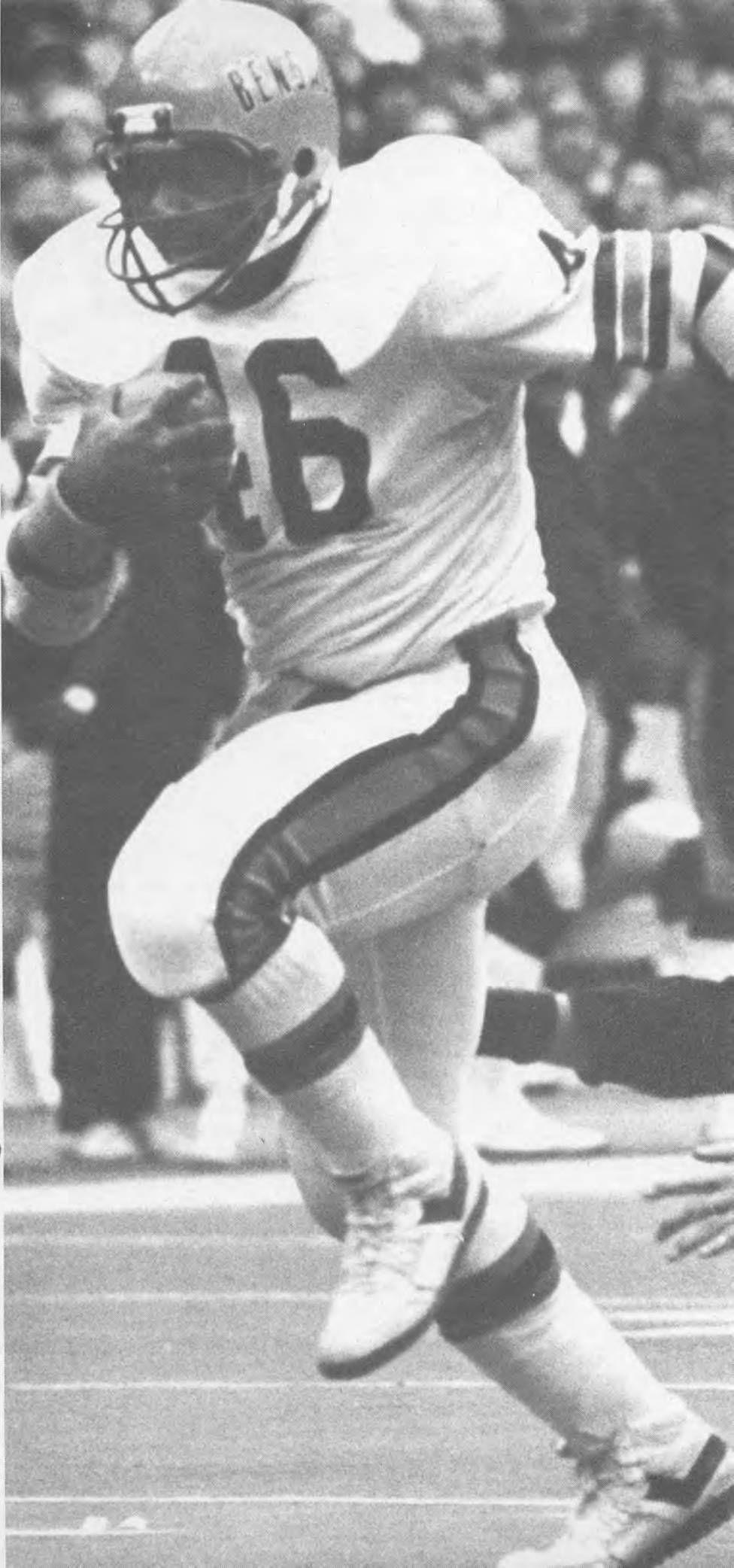
The situation is far less crystallized on offense. It isn't clear, yet, whether it's changing-of-the-guard time at quarterback or whether Jack Thompson's long relief stint for Ken Anderson last season was merely part of his development. With Anderson injured, Thompson got to play almost as much as the long-time starter. The youngster threw 11 touchdown passes, Anderson six. Thompson also has more movement. Anderson was sacked 24 times, the 1979 No. 1 draftee went down only 13 times.

No matter who is the quarterback, the Bengals still have to rely on the ground game as long as fullback Pete Johnson is healthy. The Bengals were 6-4 with Johnson in the lineup, 0-6 without him. Johnson, who can weigh anywhere from 250 to 275 pounds, depending upon what he had for dessert, gained 115, 112, 118, and 134 yards in Cincinnati's stretch run.

When Johnson went well, young Charles Alexander developed alongside him. The ex-LSU star gained 702 yards, 49 shy of Johnson's team-leading total. Alexander also caught 36 passes, third on the team. This is a do-it-or-forget-it year for Archie Griffin, who lost his



**Linebacker
Jim LeClair is
Cincinnati
standout.**





Fullback Pete Johnson is indispensable to the Bengals' offense; defensive end Gary Burley sat out most of 1980 with injuries.

starting job last year. Deacon Turner is an interesting backup.

The draft was aimed principally at reshaping the passing game by concentrating on receivers. In the first round, the Bengals selected the top receiver in the draft, David Verser of Kansas. In round two, they took swift Cris Collinsworth from Florida. John Hadl, the ex-NFL quarterback, was Verser's offensive coordinator in college.

"He's in a category with Lynn Swann and Lance Alworth," says Hadl. Verser averaged 19.2 yards a catch on 77 receptions during his career. Collinsworth, the Florida state sprint champ as a schoolboy, averaged 16.1 yards on his 120 receptions, which came over three seasons after a freshman beginning as a quarterback. Both could end up in the starting lineup before the end of the season.

Don Bass, who set a Bengals' record with 58 catches two years ago, tore up a knee last season. Isaac Curtis caught 43 balls, but he'll be 31 by midseason and he doesn't fly as he once did. Steve Kreider has some possibilities. He caught five passes in the 17-14 overtime victory over Chicago.

The top receiver last year was tight end Dan Ross, who caught 56 passes for 724 yards and four touchdowns, second only to Bass's half dozen scores. Gregg brought M.L. Harris down from Toronto with him to back up Ross, but M.L. suffered a wrist injury. The Bengals drafted Benjie Pryor of Pitt, the Panthers' foremost underproducer.

The offensive front was revamped and improved last year by the addition of fiery Jim McNally, long-time college aide, as the line coach. Massive and massively talented Anthony Munoz was the top draft pick and Mike Wilson had to move from left tackle to right tackle to make room for him. It helped. The Bengals allowed 27 fewer quarterback sacks than they did in 1979. Johnson and Alexander will be aimed over the left side, behind Glenn

1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Sunter, 48 points on 11 field goals and 15 PAT's... 22nd
RUSHING—Johnson, 186 carries for 747 yards, 4.0 avg., 6 TD's... 11th
PASSING—Anderson, 166 of 275 attempts for 1,778 yards, 6 TD's... 12th
RECEIVING—Ross, 56 receptions for 724 yards, 12.9 avg., 4 TD's... 12th
INTERCEPTIONS—Breedon, 7 for 91 yards, 13.0 avg... 7th
PUNTING—McNally, 83 punts, 40.8 avg., longest 61 yards... 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Montgomery, 31 for 223 yards, 7.2 avg... 13th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Montgomery, 44 for 843 yards, 19.2 avg... 16th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At Tampa Bay (N)
15 At Detroit (N)
22 At Chicago (N)
29 DENVER (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 SEATTLE	—
	13 At NY Jets	—
	20 CLEVELAND	24-27
	27 BUFFALO	0-14
October	4 At Houston	3-23
	11 At Baltimore	34-33
	18 PITTSBURGH	30-28
	25 At New Orleans	—
November	1 HOUSTON	10-13
	8 At San Diego	14-31
	15 LOS ANGELES	—
	22 DENVER	—
	29 At Cleveland	7-31
December	6 SAN FRANCISCO	—
	13 At Pittsburgh	17-16
	20 At Atlanta	—

Bujnoch and Munoz, often this season. Blair Bush is the center, with Max Montoya at right guard. Dave Lapham, a former starter, Billy Glass, and Blake Moore provide depth.

Cleotha Montgomery did a reasonable job as the kick-return specialist, but Ray Griffin can return punts and so can another draftee, Robert Jackson of Central Michigan.

Pat McNally remains one of the league's better punters. He also stepped into the starting lineup as a wide receiver, catching 18 passes for a 14.9-yard average, after Bass was hurt. The Bengals went through three place-kickers last year, finishing with little Jim Breech, the ex-Oakland Raider, whose kicks were the difference in two of their victories. But Cincinnati drafted Georgia's Rex Robinson, the all-time leading scorer in Southeastern Conference history. He kicked 56 career field goals.

BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

NFL						
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp college
40	Alexander, C.	RB	6-1	226	24	3 LSU
82	Alexis, Alton	WR	6-0	184	24	2 Tulane
14	Anderson, Ken	QB	6-3	208	32	11 Augustana
84	Bass, Don	WR	6-2	220	25	4 Houston
19	Birney, Tom	PK-P	6-4	220	25	3 Michigan St.
10	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	155	25	3 California
34	Breedon, Louis	CB	5-11	185	28	4 N.C. Central
47	Bright, Greg	DB	6-0	208	24	2 Morehead St.
79	Browner, Ross	DE	6-3	261	27	4 Notre Dame
74	Bujnoch, Glenn	G	6-6	258	28	6 Texas A&M
67	Burley, Gary	DE	6-3	270	29	6 Pittsburgh
58	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	250	25	4 Washington
50	Cameron, Glenn	LB	6-2	228	28	7 Florida
24	Chapman, Clarence	CB	5-10	185	28	6 E. Michigan
85	Curtis, Isaac	WR	6-1	192	31	9 San Diego St.
52	Dinkel, Tom	LB	6-3	235	25	4 Kansas
73	Edwards, Eddie	DE	6-5	261	27	5 Miami
64	Glass, Bill	G	6-4	261	24	2 Baylor
45	Griffin, Archie	RB	5-9	184	27	6 Ohio State
44	Griffin, Ray	CB	5-10	186	25	4 Ohio State
53	Harris, Bo	LB	6-3	235	28	7 LSU
83	Harris, M. L.	TE	6-5	238	27	2 Kansas State
27	Hicks, Bryan	DB	6-0	192	24	2 McNeese
71	Horn, Rod	NT	6-4	268	25	2 Nebraska
30	Jauron, Dick	S	6-0	190	31	9 Yale
46	Johnson, Pete	RB	6-0	249	27	5 Ohio State
86	Kreider, Steve	WR	6-3	192	23	3 Lehigh
61	Kurnick, Howie	LB	6-2	219	24	2 Cincinnati
62	Lapham, Dave	G	6-4	262	29	8 Syracuse
55	LeClair, Jim	LB	6-3	234	31	10 North Dakota
88	Levenseller, Mike	WR	6-1	184	25	4 Wash. St.
87	McNally, Pat	P-WR	6-6	212	28	6 Harvard
59	Melontree, Andrew	LB	6-4	228	24	2 Baylor
28	Montgomery, Cleo	KR	5-8	183	25	2 Ab. Christian
65	Montoya, Max	T	6-5	275	25	3 UCLA
60	Moore, Blake	C	6-5	260	23	2 Wooster
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	278	23	2 USC
35	Poole, Nathan	RB	5-8	205	25	3 Louisville
51	Razzano, Rick	LB	5-11	227	26	2 Va. Tech.
13	Riley, Ken	CB	6-0	183	34	13 Florida A&M
89	Ross, Dan	TE	6-4	235	24	3 Northeastern
72	St. Clair, Mike	DE	6-5	250	28	7 Grambling
15	Schonert, Turk	QB	6-1	185	24	2 Stanford
56	Simpkins, Ron	LB	6-1	235	23	2 Michigan
23	Suggs, Shafer	S	6-1	204	28	6 Ball State
12	Thompson, Jack	QB	6-3	217	25	3 Wash. St.
22	Turner, Deacon	KR-RB	5-11	210	26	4 San Diego St.
63	White, Mike	DE	6-5	267	24	3 Albany St.
75	Whitley, Wilson	NT	6-3	265	26	5 Houston
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-0	228	27	6 Dartmouth
77	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	271	26	4 Georgia

DRAFTEES

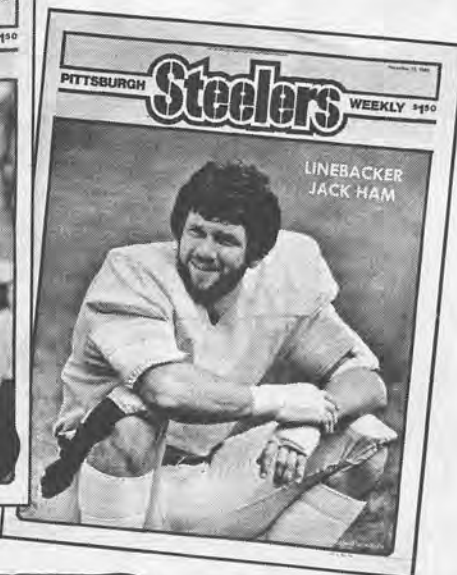
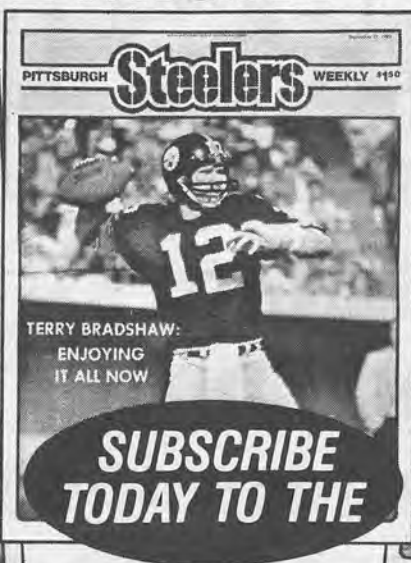
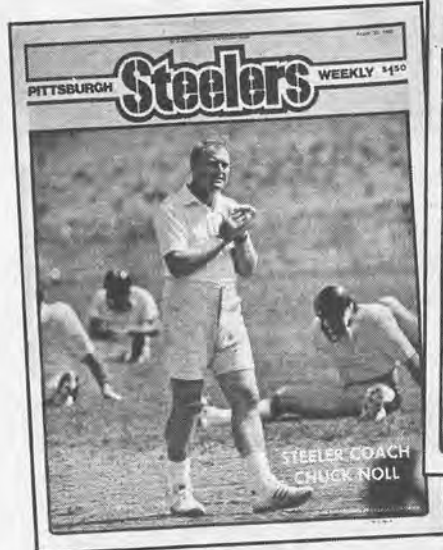
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Verser, David	WR	6-1	200	23	Kansas
2	Collinsworth, Cris	WR	6-4	192	22	Florida
3	Simmons, John	DB	5-11	188	21	SMU
4	Frazier, Guy	LB	6-2	220	22	Wyoming
5	Pryor, Benjie	TE	6-4	228	22	Pittsburgh
6	Robinson, Rex	K	6-1	215	21	Georgia
7	Schuh, Jeff	LB	6-2	225	22	Minnesota
8	Kemp, Bobby	DB	6-1	185	22	Fullerton
9	Hannula, Jim	T-P	6-6	258	22	No. Illinois
9	Samoa, Samoa	RB	6-2	210	24	Washington St.
10	Simpson, Hubert	RB	6-1	220	22	Tennessee
11	Jackson, Robert	DB	5-10	184	23	C. Michigan
12	O'Connell, Mark	QB-K	6-2	210	23	Ball State



Bengal lights: top draftee David Verser, offensive tackle Anthony Munoz (#78), quarterback Jack Thompson (#12), linebacker Andrew Melontree (#59), and kicker Rex Robinson (#5)



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Scoring sequence
Complete game statistics
Season's statistical totals for team with differential
Season's average point totals plus average win & loss margins
Season's pointspread record
Results of last year's game
Preview of upcoming game

Season's record
Playing surface
Opening power rating
Last week's rating
Current power rating

Oklahoma (-13) at Missouri

Barry Switzer (70-7-2) NT Warren Powers (14-9) (5-4)
Off: Wishbone PR:127-125-125 Off: Veer PR:108-105-108

1979 Schedule
S. 15 Iowa⁷⁴(+29)(NL)
22 Tulsa(NL)(NL)
29 at Rice⁸⁵(NL)(NL)
O. 6 Colorado⁹⁶(NL)(NL)
13 at Texas¹²⁸(-1)(+1)
20 at Kansas St.⁶⁸(NL)(NL)
27 Iowa St.⁸⁴(NL)(NL)
N. 3 at Okla. St.⁸⁴(+17)(+20)
10 Kansas⁷⁷(+26)(NL)
17 at Missouri
24 Nebraska

Game No. 1
Billy Sims rushed for 144 yards and four touchdowns and four defensive tackle John G. Hates, Jr. gave the Sooners a 14-6 victory over the Kansas Jayhawks at Kansas City, Mo. The Sooners' defense held the Jayhawks to 137 yards and three touchdowns in the first half. In the second half, Sims rushed for 144 yards and four touchdowns, and Hates made two interceptions. The Sooners' defense held the Jayhawks to 137 yards and three touchdowns in the second half. The final score was 14-6.

Opponent's Power Rating
Closing Line
Opening Line
Pointspread
Winner Against
Closing Line
Final Score

S. 15 at Illinois⁶⁷(+17)(+17½)
22 at Miss.⁹⁰(+8)(+6½)
29 Texas¹²⁵(+1)(-1)
O. 13 Oklahoma St.⁸⁹(+13)(+13½)
20 at Colorado⁹⁶(+10)(+7½)
24 at Kansas St.⁶⁸(+18)(+20)

Totals After 9 Games
OKLA. OPP. DIFF.
1st Dns. 176 128 +48
Rsh. Att. 522 463 +59
Rsh. Yds. 3130 1284 +1846
Avg. Rsh. 6.0 2.8 +3.2
Ps. Comp. 34 99 -65
Ps. Att. 76 207 -131
Ps. Yds. 677 1094 -417
Had Int. 4 16 -12
Rel. Yds. 723 302 +421
Punts 33-40.1 71-39.0 -38, +1.1
Fum.-lost 42-30 30-14 +12, +16
Pen.-Yds. 68-586 39-361 +29, +225

Totals Pts.(Avg.) OKLA. 341(37.9) OPP. 102(11.3) DIFF. +239
Home Pts.(Avg.) 195(39.0) 52(10.4) +143
Away Pts.(Avg.) 146(36.5) 50(12.5) +96

POINTSPPREAD
HOME 5-0
AWAY 0-0
Record as Favorite 0-0
Record as Underdog 0-0
Favorite vs. Spread 0-0
Underdog vs. Spread 0-0
*Includes neutral game vs. Texas

Actual Record 5-0
Spread Record 0-0
Record as Favorite 0-0
Record as Underdog 0-0
Favorite vs. Spread 0-0
Underdog vs. Spread 0-0

Last Year's Game—Sept. 30, 1978
Billy Sims rushed 14 times for 164 yards and four touchdowns in just three quarters to pace the Sooners to a 45-23 victory over Missouri. Sims ripped off scoring runs of 42 and 50 yards in the first quarter and dove into the end zone from one yard out in the second and third periods. Tiger QB Phil Bradley tallied from the one-yard line for

Missouri
Oklahoma
1st Downs
Rushes-Yds.
Passing Yds.
Return Yds.
Passing
Punts
Fumbles-lost
Penalties-Yds.

MO 0 7 2 14 — 23
OKLA. 21 7 17 0 — 45

MO 26
OKLA. 24
200 55-484
70 32
17-31-2 48
6-42-6 2-8-0
4-2 2-26.5
5-72 7-2
9-92

Series Record: Oklahoma 43-21-5
Last Game: 1978; Oklahoma (-16) 45, Missouri 23
Though the Cornhuskers have stolen some of their thunder this year, the Sooners are still an awesome collection of athletes and a major force in the Big Eight. With scoring machine Billy Sims exploding out of the backfield, Oklahoma is a constant threat to strike pay dirt.
PREDICTION: Oklahoma 31, Missouri 26

Army at Stanford
Series Record: Stanford 5-4-0
Last Game: 1978; Army 21, Stanford 20
Army's defense has been a real problem for the Sooners. They were upset by Tulane in the first game of the season, 45-29. Army's defense has been a real problem for the Sooners. They were upset by Tulane in the first game of the season, 45-29. Army's defense has been a real problem for the Sooners. They were upset by Tulane in the first game of the season, 45-29.

PREDICTION: Cleveland 20, Dallas 17

PREDICTION: Army 28, Stanford 24

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AFCeast

BUFFALO BILLS

The chant starts slowly, in a low key. By the fourth stanza the song erupts from the bowels of every stadium the Bills played in, as if the doors of their locker room were going to be blown off. The words go like this:

"I've got a feeling,
"I've got a feeling,
"I've got a feeling,
"Buffalo's goin' to the Super Bowl."

The Bills started singing that number during the first month of the 1980 season, which put them in first place in the presumption league. At the end of the season, it didn't seem presumptuous at all. Buffalo was the turnaround story in the NFL last year, a 7-9 team which became an 11-5 team, won the AFC Eastern championship, and came within a whisker of knocking off San Diego in the playoffs.

The Bills made all the right moves last year. They beat Miami for the first time in ten years and 21 games. They won on the West Coast for the first time since 1966. They beat the Chargers for the first time since 1965, when they were American League champions. They beat the good teams: Oakland, San Diego, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and New England. They won in the clutch. And they were champions, something they hadn't been since Jack Kemp was a quarterback, not a congressman.

No AFC Eastern champion has repeated in the last five years, but the Bills feel they can break that string. When they finished their spring minicamp, they snake-danced off the field at Rich Stadium, singing "I've Got a Feeling."

Among the snake dancers was Chuck Knox, the man who choreographed the Buffalo turnaround and was selected NFL coach of the year by his peers. Knox attributes the Bills' accelerated progress in 1980 to three elements: familiarity with the system he installed when he came from the Rams three years ago, successful drafting, and trading for veterans who instilled the knowledge of how to win.

It's true that Knox's defense, the 3-4, was installed in 1979. Two years ago the team surrendered a Buffalo record 5,188 yards and ranked 24th among the 28 NFL teams in total defense. Last year they were the top-ranked defensive team in the entire NFL, allowing opponents only 256.3 yards a game. The Bills gave up 260 points. Only Philadelphia and Houston did better in the NFL. Defensive coordinator Tom Catlin was promoted to assistant head coach after last season and it's no wonder.

But the surprising thing is that the newest wrinkle in Knox's offensive system, the shotgun formation, which was used in almost all obvious passing situations, was installed only last summer. All during the exhibition season, it appeared to be an idea whose time had not come. But once the season started, the efficiency of the shotgun was startling. The Bills converted 52.9 percent of their third-down opportunities.

The drafts, conducted by Knox and personnel chief Norm Pollom, produced eight starters. The trades to which Knox referred brought in inspira-

tional types such as guard Conrad Dobler, linebacker Phil Villapiano, safety Bill Simpson, and wide receiver Ron Jessie.

The key to the offensive turnaround was the maturing of the offensive line. It's small—both tackles, Ken Jones and Joe Devlin, and guard Reggie McKenzie were named to a "Small All-Pro" team picked by one football publication—but ideal for the quick-strike type attack which Knox likes. The surprise was that Will Grant, an anonymous sub until last year, beat out the No. 1 draftee, Jim Ritcher, the 1979 Outland Trophy winner, for the starting center job. It wasn't a matter of Ritcher failing, but of Grant succeeding.

Dobler set an example for the pass blockers. They made Joe Ferguson the best-protected quarterback in the league. He was sacked only 13 times and the Bills as a unit gave up only 20 sacks, the best record in the NFL. But Dobler is the most vulnerable of the linemen, partly because his arthritic knee makes it nearly impossible for him to pull and partly because Ritcher has been switched to guard and aimed at Dobler's job. There are other admirable young linemen on the bench, tackle-guard Jon Borchardt, tackle Dee Hardison, who was switched from defense last year, and guard John Schmeding, a high draft choice who missed his rookie season due to injury.

It was the offensive line which helped the defense make its amazing improvement, by providing the defenders with plenty of rest. The Bills' total of 1,084 plays was exceeded only by San Diego in ball-control statistics.

1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Mike Mayer, 76 points on 13 field goals and 37 PAT's... 15th
RUSHING—Cribbs, 306 carries for 1,185 yards, 3.9 avg., 11 TD's... 2nd
PASSING—Ferguson, 251 of 439 attempts for 2,805 yards, 20 TD's... 7th
RECEIVING—Butler, 57 receptions for 832 yards, 14.6 avg., 6 TD's... 9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Freeman, 7 for 107 yards, 15.3 avg., 1 TD... 5th
PUNTING—Cater, 73 punts, 38.7 avg., longest 61 yards... 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Cribbs, 29 for 154 yards, 5.3 avg., 14th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Miller, 16 for 303 yards, 18.9 avg... 17th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 DETROIT (N)
15 CLEVELAND (N)
22 At Cleveland (N)
28 At San Diego (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 NY JETS	20-10
	13 At Baltimore	24-28
	17 PHILADELPHIA (N)	—
	27 At Cincinnati	14-0
October	4 BALTIMORE	12-17
	12 MIAMI (N)	17-7
	18 At NY Jets	31-24
	25 DENVER	—
November	1 CLEVELAND	—
	9 At Dallas (N)	—
	15 At St. Louis	—
	22 NEW ENGLAND	31-13
	29 WASHINGTON	—
December	6 At San Diego	26-24
	13 At New England	2-24
	19 At Miami	14-17

The brightest newcomer for the Bills was Joe Cribbs, the little bull of a halfback who ran for 1,185 yards, caught 52 passes out of the shotgun, and scored a dozen touchdowns. He was the AFC's rookie of the year by a landslide.

The running attack will have a different look this season, since the first draft pick was Penn State fullback Booker Moore, a squat, explosive runner and blocker. His presence will allow Curtis Brown to be shifted back to his normal halfback position, where he can spell Cribbs. Roosevelt Leaks, the ex-Colt, made a big contribution in his first season with Buffalo, specializing in short-yardage appearances. He converted 75 percent of the third-downs in which he carried the ball. The Bills also got good mileage out of versatile Roland Hooks.

Ferguson, who passed for 2,805 yards and 20 touchdowns, has had better statistical seasons, but never a better year as a team leader and catalyst. His value was underscored when he suffered a hairline fracture of the ankle in the next-to-last game, then returned, in pain, to lead the Bills to a victory over San Francisco the next week in a game which decided the divi-



Quarterback Joe Ferguson of Buffalo

sion championship. It was further underscored when he was hurt in the playoff against San Diego. The Bills then lost the momentum.

Ferguson throws to an excellent pair of deep threats, Jerry Butler and Frank Lewis. Butler caught 57 passes and went to the Pro Bowl. Lewis is still a remarkable athlete, but at 33 he can't play all the time. When he's out of the lineup, the pass coverages collapse on Butler.

That's why the Bills used their first of two second-round draft picks to select speedy, smooth Byron Franklin of Auburn. Ferguson, a licensed pilot, flew quarterback coach Kay Stephenson around to college campuses to audition several prospective receivers before the draft and Franklin is the one who impressed Joe the most.

Buffalo also drafted Mike Mosley, a quarterback at Texas A&M, who will be switched to wide receiver. A fine athlete, Mosley runs the

Linebacker Jim Haslett (over ball) leads a strong Buffalo defense.



BILLS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
28	Bess, Rufus	CB	5-9	180	25	3	S.C. St.
73	Borchardt, Jon	T	6-5	285	24	3	Montana St.
14	Bradley, Gene	QB	6-4	199	24	1	Ark. St.
86	Brammer, Mark	TE	6-3	235	23	2	Mich. St.
47	Brown, Curtis	FB	5-10	203	27	5	Missouri
80	Butler, Jerry	WR	6-0	178	24	3	Clemson
7	Cater, Greg	P	6-0	191	24	2	Chattanooga
29	Clark, Mario	CB	6-2	195	27	6	Oregon
20	Cribbs, Joe	RB	5-11	190	23	2	Auburn
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	250	27	6	Iowa
69	Dobler, Conrad	G	6-3	255	31	10	Wyoming
	Evans, Johnny	P-QB	6-1	197	25	4	N.C. St.
84	Ferguson, Duke	WR	6-1	185	27	4	San Diego St.
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	195	31	9	Arkansas
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88	Gant, Reuben	TE	6-4	225	29	8	Oklahoma
53	Grant, Will	C	6-4	248	27	4	Kentucky
21	Greene, Doug	SS	6-2	205	25	4	Texas A & M
74	Hardison, Dee	T	6-4	269	25	4	N. Carolina
55	Haslett, Jim	LB	6-3	232	26	3	Indiana (Pa.)
25	Hooks, Roland	RB	6-0	195	28	6	N.C. St.
10	Humm, David	QB	6-2	190	29	7	Nebraska
90	Hutchinson, Scott	DE	6-4	243	25	4	Florida
97	Irvin, Darrell	DE	6-4	255	24	2	Oklahoma
81	Jessie, Rori	WR	6-0	181	33	11	Kansas
91	Johnson, Ken	DE	6-5	253	26	3	Knoxville
72	Jones, Ken	T	6-5	250	29	6	Ark. St.
	Justin, Sidney	DB	5-10	175	27	2	Long Beach
71	Kadish, Mike	NT	6-5	250	31	6	Notre Dame
52	Keating, Chris	LB	6-2	223	24	3	Maine
16	Krueger, Todd	QB	6-4	188	24	1	N. Michigan
42	Kush, Rod	SS	6-0	188	25	2	Oklahoma
48	Leaks, Roosevelt	RB	5-10	225	28	7	Texas
	Lee, Keith	CB	5-11	192	24	1	Colorado St.
82	Lewis, Frank	WR	6-1	196	34	11	Grambling
11	Manucci, Dan	QB	6-2	194	24	3	Kansas St.
67	McKenzie, Reggie	G	6-5	242	31	10	Michigan
	Mike-Mayer, Nick	K	5-9	185	31	9	Temple
59	Nelson, Shane	LB	6-1	225	26	5	Baylor
38	Nixon, Jeff	FS	6-3	190	25	3	Richmond
62	Parker, Ervin	LB	6-5	240	23	2	S.C. St.
75	Parker, Herman	G	6-2	260	24	1	Long Beach
89	Piccone, Lou	WR	5-9	175	32	8	W. Liberty St.
51	Ritcher, Jim	C	6-3	251	23	2	N.C. St.
58	Robertson, Isiah	LB	6-3	225	32	11	Southern
26	Romes, Charles	CB	6-1	190	27	5	N.C. Central
67	Sanford, Lucius	LB	6-2	216	25	4	Georgia Tech
64	Schmedding, John	G	5-4	258	26	1	Boston College
45	Simpson, Bill	FS	6-1	191	24	7	Mich. St.
76	Smerlas, Fred	NT	6-3	270	24	3	Boston College
	Solomon, Roland	DB	5-11	180	25	2	Utah
41	Villapiano, Phil	LB	6-2	225	32	11	Bowling Green
65	Vogler, Tim	C	6-3	245	25	3	Ohio St.
83	White, Sherman	DE	6-5	250	33	10	California
77	Williams, Ben	DE	6-3	245	27	6	Mississippi

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Moore, Booker	FB	5-11	229	22	Penn. St.
2	Williams, Chris	DB	6-0	197	22	LSU
3	Franklin, Byron	WR	6-1	179	23	Auburn
3	Mosley, Mike	WR	6-1	186	23	Texas A&M
3	Geathers, Robert	DE	6-6	280	24	S.C. St.
5	Clark, Calvin	DE	6-4	260	22	Purdue
6	Holt, Robert	WR	6-1	174	22	Baylor
7	Doolittle, Steve	LB	6-3	234	22	Colorado
9	Riddick, Robb	RB	6-0	195	24	Millersville
10	Cross, Justin	OT	6-6	262	22	Western St.
11	Barnett, Buster	TE	6-5	225	23	Jackson St.
12	Clark, Keith	LB	6-4	224	22	Memphis St.

100-yard dash in 9.4. He probably won't be ready for a while, however. Already on the Buffalo roster are Jessie, Duke Ferguson, and Lou Piccone, who makes himself valuable in several different ways. Piccone is a big-play specialist.

The Bills sought a speedy tight end to push Reuben Gant last year, but had to be satisfied with possession receiver Mark Brammer. Brammer, though, was such a rookie hit that he chased Gant out of the starting lineup with his clutch catching and dependable blocking.

One worry on offense is what happens when Ferguson is hurt too badly to play? Backup Dan Manucci was unimpressive in his brief appearances, but Knox likes his future. Gene Bradley, drafted in the second round last year, missed the whole season with back miseries, but he's O.K. now. Knox also wants a full assessment of ex-Raider David Humm, who came to the Bills at the start of the season.

The heart of the Bills' defense is the middle, the so-called "Bermuda Triangle" of nose tackle Fred Smerlas and inside linebackers Jim Haslett and Shane Nelson. Smerlas, possibly the best nose tackle in football, went to the Pro Bowl after just his second season. He combines enormous strength with amazing quickness and a willingness to put out on every play. Haslett led the Bills in tackles with 125. He has Dick Butkus intensity. Nelson doesn't get as much attention, but he's a fierce hitter.

Ben Williams had his finest pro season at defensive end and he, too, was a Pro Bowl candidate. Sherman White is playing some of the best football of his career on the other side. When the Bills use their four-man front, Mike Kadish comes in at tackle and plays effectively. The bench includes one youngster whom Knox feels has unlimited possibilities, Darrell Irvin, along with Ken Johnson and Scott Hutchinson. The draft brought two more linemen, South Carolina State strong man Robert Geathers and Purdue's Calvin Clark.

The most controversial of the Bills is outside backer Isiah Robertson, the ex-Ram. He was arrested along with Haslett when the two engaged in a midseason, early morning brawl in a restaurant parking lot. Haslett later said of Robertson, "He's the worst bleeping player on this team." Robertson's unpopularity is widespread among the Bills, so Knox may have to make a move with him.

The other outside backer is dependable Lucius Sanford. The bench includes Villapiano, Ervin Parker, and Chris Keating. The highest drafted linebacker was Steve Doolittle of Colorado.

There will be an interesting battle at free safety. Jeff Nixon had just been named the NFL's defensive player for September when he suffered a knee injury which kept him out of the starting lineup for the rest of the year. Knox then traded for the Rams' Bill Simpson, who came out of retirement to start the rest of the season. If the speedier Nixon does wrestle back his old job, Simpson still would have to battle for the nickel back assignment. There is another fight at strong safety, between incumbent Steve Freeman and young, hard-hitting Rod Kush, who missed the last nine games due to a knee injury.

Things are more settled at corner. Mario Clark and Charles Romes, one of the defensive corners in the AFC, have been a team for three years. The backup is likely to be rookie Chris Williams of LSU, the other second-rounder. Williams also may win the punt-return job, a

Buffalo weakness last year. Anyone has a shot at kickoff-return duty, since the best average in that specialty was an unimpressive 18.9 yards by Terry Miller, who was traded to Cleveland.

Ex-Brown punter Johnny Evans, who had a poor season last year, will challenge Greg Cater, who had an even poorer season as a Buffalo rookie. The field goal kicking was a satisfactory 13-for-23 by Nick Mike-Mayer.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

You could almost chart New England's 1980 season from the headlines from September and October:

"Patriot Attitude Powerful Stuff"

"The Patriots Are for Real"

"This Year's Patriots Are Making the Big Plays"

From November and December:

"They Had No Heart in San Francisco"

"Dolphins Come Back to Life, Leave Patriots Hanging High"

"New England's Longest Running Mystery Is Now 20 Years Old—The Ending is Still the Same."

The last headline refers to the Patriots' unenviable record of never having won a playoff

Buffalo running back Joe Cribbs (#20) runs behind blocks of Conrad Dobler (#69) and Ken Jones (#72).



STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

game in their entire history. Last year, for the second year, they didn't even make the playoffs, despite having the best talent in the division. Maybe the best talent in the American Conference. Ron Erhardt, the coach, denies he has the horses. Naturally. He says Buffalo is the team to beat again in the AFC East.

But when the Pro Bowl team was selected for the AFC, seven of the Patriots were on the roster. Buffalo had only three. Cleveland, the Central division champion, had five. Oakland, the Super Bowl champ, had four. Only San Diego, the Western division champion, had more than the Pats. The Chargers had eight.

No playoffs and seven Pro Bowlers. That does not make Ron Erhardt resemble Tom Landry or Chuck Noll or Bud Grant or Don Shula. That makes Erhardt look like the equalizer in the AFC East. Erhardt brought in four new coaches this season. Babe Parilli will tutor the quarterbacks, Steve Grogan and Matt Cavanaugh, who will have a limp-off for the starting job. Dick Roach will be the team's fifth defensive backfield coach in six seasons. Bobby Grier will coach the running backs. Rick Lantz, former defensive coordinator at Navy and at the University of Miami, will coach the linebackers.

But the old coaches didn't look so bad nine weeks through last season, when the Pats were 7-2 and leading the division. What do assistant coaches have to do with the choke factor?

The choke factor surfaced in a span of 29 days, beginning last November 10 in Houston, when the Oilers beat the Patriots. In a five-game swing, New England lost four times. The worst parts were in San Francisco, when the 49ers, losers in nine of their previous ten games, intercepted Grogan six times, and in Miami, where Erhardt put on his Herbert Hoover collar and virtually gave away the game.

One play in the Miami game was symptomatic of what is wrong with this team. With third-and-12 confronting the Pats deep in Miami territory, Cavanaugh threw an 11-yard completion, but Miami was called for offsides. Erhardt had the option: take the 11-yard gain and kick a field goal, or try again from five yards closer.

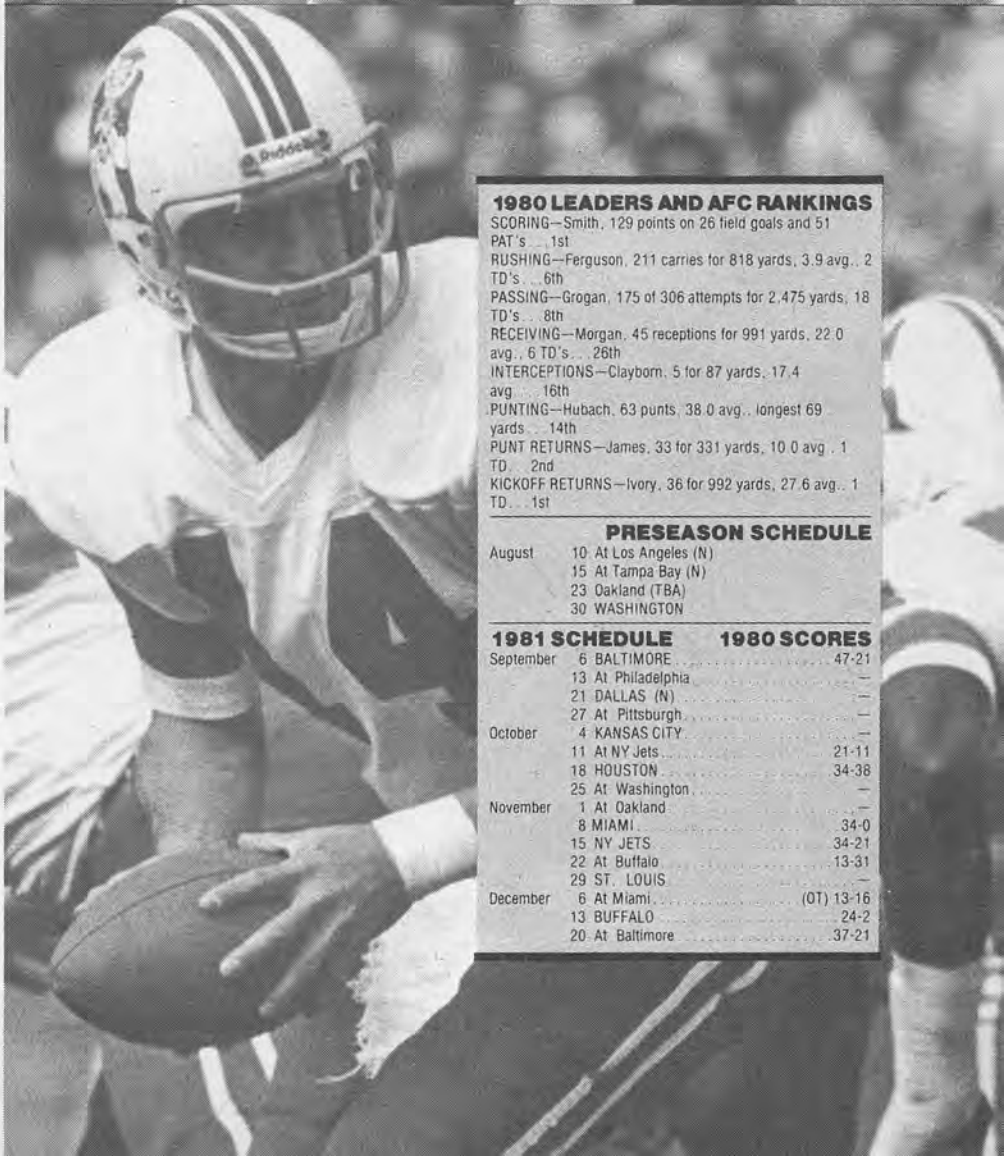
Erhardt, coaching a team which scored 441 points—second only to Dallas in the NFL—took the play and kicked a field goal. Miami, already eliminated from the playoffs, won in overtime when Tim Fox, a Pro Bowl safety, missed a pass he should have intercepted. The 54-yard gain set up the winning field goal.

Will things be different for the Pats this year? The tipoff may be that Erhardt says he wouldn't do anything differently if he could play 1980 over again. That includes using the same game plan against the Dolphins, not yanking Grogan in the midst of his six-interception barrage against the 49ers, and not lifting the hobbled Grogan for Cavanaugh earlier in the season.

This year both Grogan and Cavanaugh came to training camp with gimpy knees. The starter, according to Erhardt, may be the one who rehabilitates better. The two of them had some of the best statistics in the AFC. Cavanaugh had the best ratio of touchdowns to passes thrown. Grogan was second among quarterbacks who threw at least 100 passes and led in average gain per pass. Cavanaugh was second. Grogan's interception percentage, however, was the highest in the conference.

The Patriot quarterback spot is up for grabs between Matt Cavanaugh (#12) and Steve Grogan (right).

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL



1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Smith, 129 points on 26 field goals and 51 PAT's... 1st
RUSHING—Ferguson, 211 carries for 818 yards, 3.9 avg., 2 TD's... 6th
PASSING—Grogan, 175 of 306 attempts for 2,475 yards, 18 TD's... 8th
RECEIVING—Morgan, 45 receptions for 991 yards, 22.0 avg., 6 TD's... 26th
INTERCEPTIONS—Clayborn, 5 for 87 yards, 17.4 avg... 16th
PUNTING—Hubach, 63 punts, 38.0 avg., longest 69 yards... 14th
PUNT RETURNS—James, 33 for 331 yards, 10.0 avg., 1 TD... 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Ivory, 36 for 992 yards, 27.6 avg., 1 TD... 1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 10 At Los Angeles (N)
15 At Tampa Bay (N)
23 Oakland (TBA)
30 WASHINGTON

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 BALTIMORE	47-21
	13 At Philadelphia	—
	21 DALLAS (N)	—
	27 At Pittsburgh	—
October	4 KANSAS CITY	—
	11 At NY Jets	21-11
	18 HOUSTON	34-38
	25 At Washington	—
November	1 At Oakland	—
	8 MIAMI	34-0
	15 NY JETS	34-21
	22 At Buffalo	13-31
	29 ST. LOUIS	—
December	6 At Miami	(OT) 13-16
	13 BUFFALO	24-2
	20 At Baltimore	37-21



PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
85	Adams, Julius	DE	6-4	263	33	9	Texas So.
64	Bishop, Dick	DL	6-1	260	31	5	Louisville
58	Brock, Pete	OL	6-5	260	27	5	Colorado
44	Calhoun, Don	RB	6-0	212	29	7	Kansas St.
12	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-1	210	25	3	Pittsburgh
35	Clark, Allan	RB	5-10	186	24	2	No. Arizona
26	Clayborn, Ray	CB	6-1	190	26	4	Texas
75	Cryder, Bob	OG	6-4	265	26	3	Alabama
28	Currier, Bill	DB	6-0	195	26	4	So. Carolina
43	Ferguson, Vagas	RB	6-1	194	24	2	Notre Dame
22	Foreman, Chuck	RB	6-2	220	31	8	Miami
48	Fox, Tim	FS	5-11	190	28	5	Ohio State
81	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	242	28	6	Oregon
51	Golic, Bob	LB	6-2	240	24	2	Notre Dame
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	208	28	6	Kansas St.
71	Hamilton, Ray	NT	6-1	245	30	8	Oklahoma
73	Hannah, John	OG	6-2	265	30	8	Alabama
80	Hasselbeck, Don	TE	6-7	245	26	4	Colorado
59	Hawkins, Mike	LB	6-2	232	26	3	Texas A&I
40	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-2	195	28	5	Arizona St.
6	Hubach, Mike	P	5-10	185	23	2	Kansas
23	Ivory, Horace	RB	6-0	198	27	4	Oklahoma
29	Jackson, Harold	WR	5-10	175	35	13	Jackson St.
38	James, Roland	CB	6-2	189	23	2	Tennessee
32	Johnson, Andy	RB	6-0	204	29	6	Georgia
7	Jordan, Shelby	OT	6-7	260	29	5	Washington, MO
52	King, Steve	LB	6-4	230	30	8	Tulsa
67	Lenkaitis, Bill	OC	6-4	255	35	13	Penn State
72	Lunsford, Mel	DE	6-3	260	31	8	Central St.
53	Matthews, Bill	LB	6-2	235	25	2	S. Dakota St.
70	McDougald, Doug	DE	6-5	271	24	2	VPI
78	McGee, Tony	DE	6-4	250	32	10	Bishop
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-11	180	26	4	Tennessee
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6-2	230	30	7	N. Dakota St.
17	Owen, Tom	QB	6-1	194	29	7	Wichita St.
88	Pennywell, Carlos	WR	6-2	180	25	3	Grambling
77	Puetz, Garry	OT	6-4	255	29	8	Valpariso
25	Sanford, Rick	DB	6-1	192	24	2	So. Carolina
56	Shoate, Rod	LB	6-1	215	28	5	Oklahoma
1	Smith, John	K	6-0	185	32	7	Southampton
30	Tatupu, Mosi	RB	6-0	229	26	3	USC
83	Westbrook, Don	WR	5-10	185	29	4	Nebraska
62	Wheeler, Dwight	OT	6-3	255	26	2	Tenn. St.
54	Zamberlin, John	LB	6-2	232	25	2	Pac. Lutheran

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Holloway, Brian	OT	6-7	273	22	Stanford
2	Collins, Anthony	RB	5-11	202	22	E. Carolina
4	Blackmon, Don	LB	6-3	235	23	Tulsa
5	Clark, Steve	DT	6-5	258	22	Kansas St.
6	Wooten, Ron	OG	6-4	257	22	N. Carolina
7	Toler, Ken	WR	6-2	196	22	Mississippi
8	Naber, Ken	K	6-3	180	22	Stanford
8	Dawson, Lin	TE	6-3	235	22	N.C. St.
11	Buckley, Brian	QB	6-2	205	23	Harvard
12	Crissy, Cris	DB	5-11	195	22	Princeton

They have some startling receivers. Stanley Morgan averaged 22 yards on his 45 catches and Harold Jackson 21.1 on his 35. Tight end Russ Francis averaged 16.2 on his 41. Among them they caught 19 touchdown passes. Don Hasselbeck, the frequently-used second tight end, caught four touchdown passes.

Vagas Ferguson ran for more yards, 818, than any rookie back in New England history. Fullback Don Calhoun had 787.

Rookies seldom step right into the lineup of this highly skilled team, so when offensive line coach Jim Ringo makes a couple of changes this season, he will do so with well-fermented players. Pete Brock and Bob Cryder were both first-round draftees, but it took Brock six seasons to replace Bill Lenkaitis at center. It took Cryder four to get past Sam Adams at right guard. Adams was traded to New Orleans.

The rest of the line is well-seasoned. Guard John Hannah may be the best offensive lineman in the NFL. Shelby Jordan and Dwight Wheeler won't be threatened by No. 1 draftee Brian Holloway for a starting offensive tackle job for a couple of seasons, if past performance is an indication. Ron Wooten, a star guard from North Carolina, also was drafted, since the offensive line depth is getting thin.

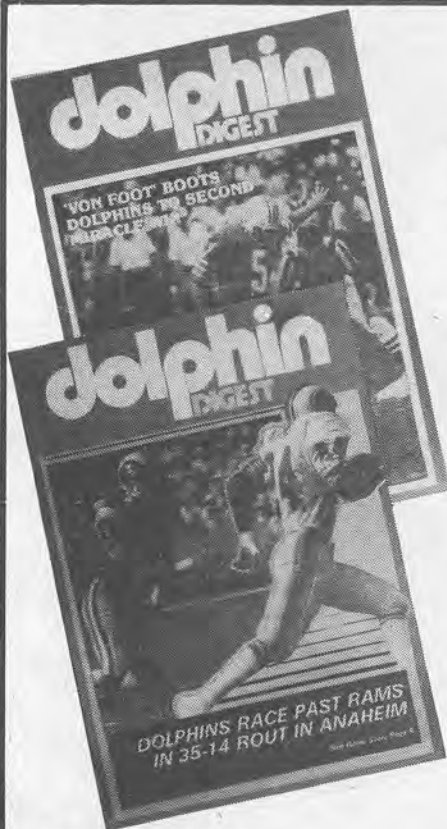
There is greater depth in the backfield, with hard-blocking Mosi Tatupu, Horace Ivory, Andy Johnson, and second-round draftee Anthony Collins of East Carolina.

Bucko Kilroy, the Pats' general manager, was quoted as saying the 3-4 defense is on the way out, but New England still uses it as its staple and it serves the Pats well. It's a veteran front with Ray Hamilton at nose tackle and Julius Adams, who went to the Pro Bowl for the first time in his ten-year career.

The Pats had 44 sacks, 31 of them by the line. Adams and Tony McGee, who comes in as the designated sacker, each had 8½. Richard Bishop, who missed the first part of the season due to a contract dispute, relieves Hamilton. There are some interesting kids coming up, such as sophomores Steve McMichael, Doug McDougald, and rookie Steve Clark of Kansas State.

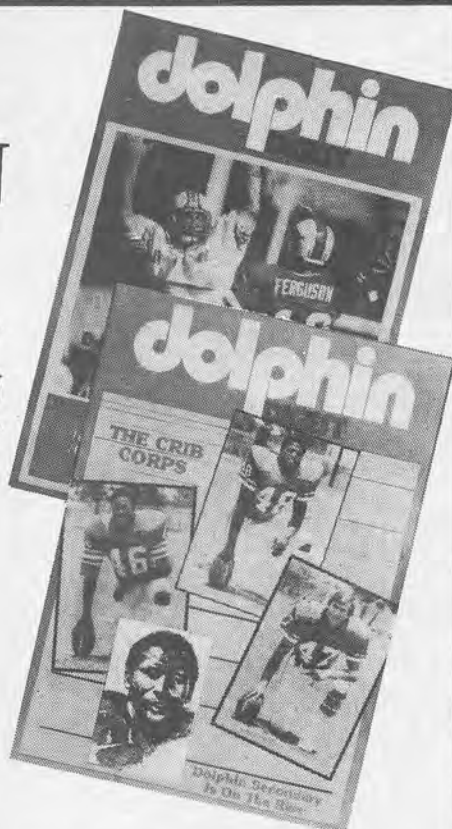
The linebacking includes another Pro Bowler, tough inside man Steve Nelson, and an

New England's best (clockwise from left): running back Vagas Ferguson, defensive end Julius Adams, offensive guard John Hannah, and wide receiver Stanley Morgan



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outside backer, Rod Shoate, who was a candidate. The other outside position belongs to Mike Hawkins, with John Zamberlin and Bob Golic sharing the other inside post. The depth includes veterans Steve King, Bill Matthews, and Larry McGrew, along with rookie Don Blackmon of Tulsa.

Roach has some rare talent with which to work in the secondary. When the Pats are in their nickel defense, they field five first-round draftees: corners Michael Hayes and Raymond Clayborn, free safety Fox, strong safety Rick Sanford, as well as nickel man Roland James.

The Pats have fine special teams. Horace Ivory led the NFL in kickoff returns and James was among the leaders in punt returns. The special teams scored five touchdowns in 1980.

John Smith is the NFL's all-time accuracy leader in field goals. Mike Hubach is in jeopardy off his gross-punting average, lowest in the league. Ken Naber of Stanford, a rookie, will challenge him. Naber has something extra going for him. He is also a place-kicker.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

You can almost see Don Shula making mental notes to himself when things don't go well for the Miami Dolphins. Toward the end of last season, Shula had a bulging file of these memos, ready to be put into action for 1981.

How far can the Dolphins advance from their 8-8 season of a year ago? Consider what happened after the 1977 season, the worst won-lost record in Shula's coaching career, 6 victories, 8 losses. In 1978, the Dolphins made an astounding recovery, winning 10 games in the then 14-game schedule.

A cautionary note for Dolphin followers: 1979 was the season Shula made a bombshell trade which brought Miami Delvin Williams, who produced a 1,200-yard season; Bob Griese was still an effective quarterback; young Don Strock looked like the quarterback of the future with 12 touchdown passes in his dossier; the nucleus of the great offensive line, center Jim Langer and guards Larry Little and Bob Kuechenberg, was still intact.

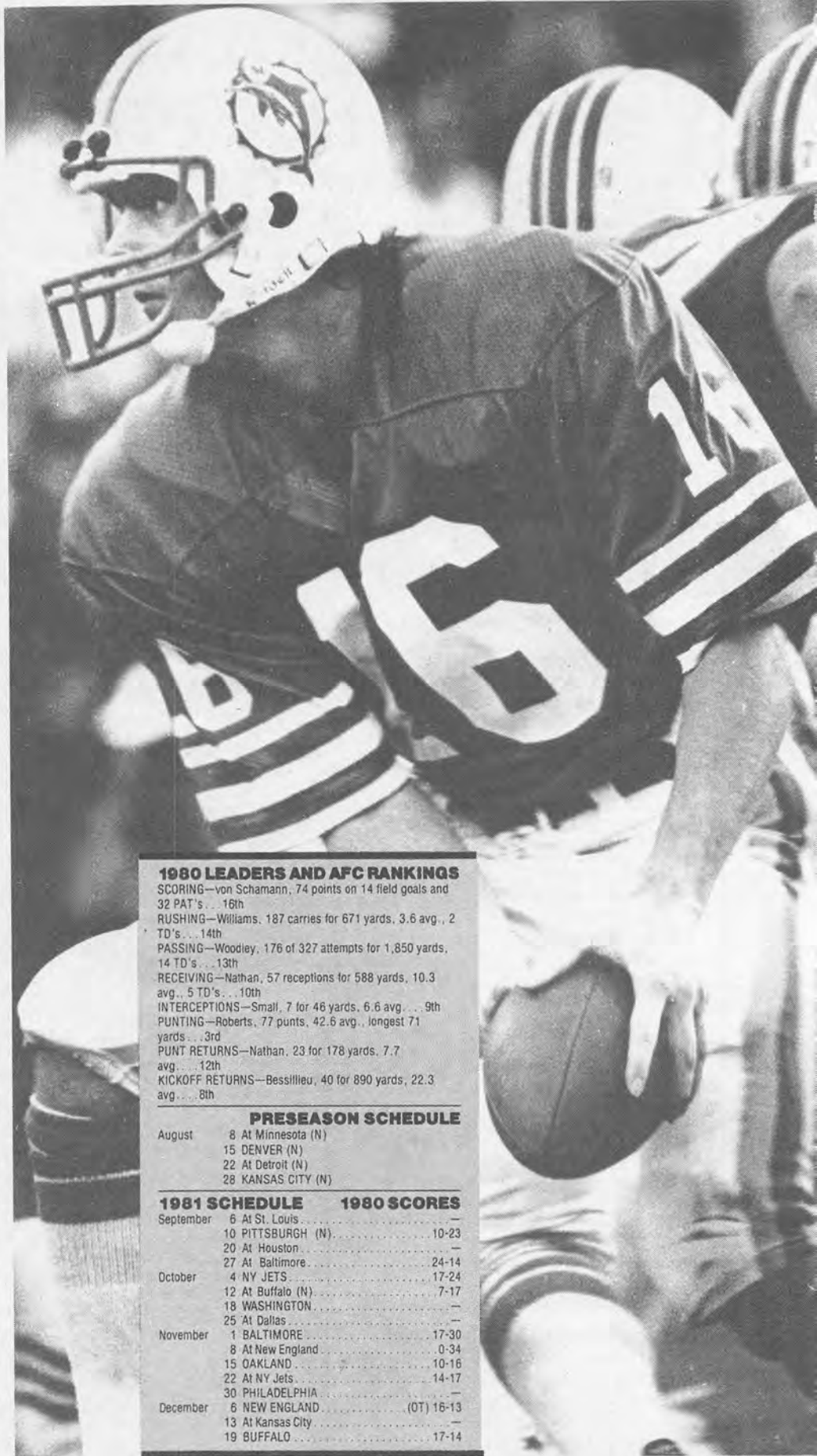
The 1981 reality is that Williams has bailed out as a Dolphin. Griese and Little are retired, Langer went to Minnesota, and only Kooch remains to anchor the line. In 1981, the key names are David Woodley, Tony Nathan, and Andra Franklin.

Woodley is the key who unlocks the entire Miami future. He is the surprise rookie who inherited the quarterback job a third of the way through the 1980 season and performed, at times, superbly. At a time when the Dolphins had lost four of five games and were breathing hard last November, Woodley, who wasn't even a full-time starter in his senior year at LSU, threw for three touchdowns, ran for two more, and, believe it or not, caught a pass for a sixth touchdown (although that was nullified). He did it against one of the strongest defenses in the league, that of the Rams, right in Anaheim. Miami won that game, 35-14, and was 4-3 for the rest of the season with Woodley at quarterback. During that period, he was virtually Shula's alter ego.

"I think he did a tremendous job," said Griese of his young successor. "Basically, his big improvement began when coach Shula started calling the plays."

Woodley was Shula's only alternative. Griese, the leader of Miami's three Super Bowl

Quarterback David Woodley of Miami



1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—von Schamann, 74 points on 14 field goals and 32 PAT's... 16th

RUSHING—Williams, 187 carries for 671 yards, 3.6 avg., 2 TD's... 14th

PASSING—Woodley, 176 of 327 attempts for 1,850 yards, 14 TD's... 13th

RECEIVING—Nathan, 57 receptions for 588 yards, 10.3 avg., 5 TD's... 10th

INTERCEPTIONS—Small, 7 for 46 yards, 6.6 avg., 9th

PUNTING—Roberts, 77 punts, 42.6 avg., longest 71 yards... 3rd

PUNT RETURNS—Nathan, 23 for 178 yards, 7.7 avg., 12th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Bessilleu, 40 for 890 yards, 22.3 avg., 8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At Minnesota (N)
15 DENVER (N)
22 At Detroit (N)
28 KANSAS CITY (N)

1981 SCHEDULE

1980 SCORES

September	6 At St. Louis	—
	10 PITTSBURGH (N)	10-23
	20 At Houston	—
	27 At Baltimore	24-14
October	4 NY JETS	17-24
	12 At Buffalo (N)	7-17
	18 WASHINGTON	—
	25 At Dallas	—
November	1 BALTIMORE	17-30
	8 At New England	0-34
	15 OAKLAND	10-16
	22 At NY Jets	14-17
	30 PHILADELPHIA	—
December	6 NEW ENGLAND	(OT) 16-13
	13 At Kansas City	—
	19 BUFFALO	17-14

teams, could no longer throw without pain in his shoulder. Strock had slipped badly in Shula's future book and was looking for another team with which he could attempt a fresh start. When he had his chance, he proved too immobile a quarterback behind the rebuilding line and, worse, he could not get the offense into gear. So Woodley, a mere eight-round draft choice, was it. He still is.

"We have a new identity with him," says Shula. "We're building around David. I'm not sure the public realizes what he did for us ... coming in as a rookie, establishing himself, getting an opportunity to play, not taking advantage of it at first, and then fighting back when Griese was hurt and showing us he is just a fine young quarterback." Even so, most of the talk about Woodley is in the future tense. The Dolphins averaged a paltry 285 yards on offense last year. They were 26th in the league in total offense, 24th in passing.

But it wasn't the passing which most concerned Shula. It was the punchless running. The Dolphins have always succeeded with a good ground attack. Other than Williams, who has been written off, the most effective runner was young Tony Nathan, who averaged a whopping 5.5 yards on his 60 carries.

Why doesn't Nathan get the ball more? Because he's an enigma, a player who displays astounding talent in one game, then keeps it in neutral for the next. He was the same way in college at Alabama. He led the team in receiving with 57 catches and 588 yards, while catch-

ing six touchdown passes. But he also fumbled nine times.

"He's still the most productive guy we've ever had coming out of the backfield to catch passes," says Shula.

To make sure he would have the makings of a sound running game, Shula used his first two draft choices for running backs. First came Oklahoma's David Overstreet, then Nebraska's Andra Franklin, a hammered-down, 5-10, 225-pounder who blocks well.

The Dolphins were stunned when Overstreet signed with Montreal of the Canadian League. Shula is a coach who is not reluctant to start rookies. A backfield which would have included both Overstreet and Franklin would have been no surprise in Miami. Now the emphasis will be on the inconsistent Nathan.

The defection of Overstreet was another in a continuing string of setbacks for the Dolphins ever since their Super Bowl seasons. First there were the World Football League signings of Larry Csonka, Jim Kiick, and Paul Warfield. Then, last year, after Csonka had made a successful comeback in Miami, there was his bitter, season-long holdout. Finally, there was the tragic death of linebacker Rusty Chambers in a car accident this summer.

Now with Griese's career over, there won't be the unreasonable crutch of a possible comeback by the great quarterback to lean on. The future is with Woodley, more emphatically than ever. The

Dolphin nose tackle Bob Baumhower



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- Super Pick'n With Clemson (+7) over South Carolina 27-7 for our 10th winner in 12 years

DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
43	Allen, Jeff	CB	5-11	185	24	2	Cal-Davis
88	Bailey, Elmer	WR	6-0	195	24	2	Minnesota
78	Barisich, Carl	DT	6-4	255	30	9	Princeton
70	Barnett, Bill	DE	6-4	255	25	2	Nebraska
73	Baumhower, Bob	DT	6-5	260	26	5	Alabama
44	Beaudoin, Doug	S	6-1	190	27	6	Minnesota
34	Bennett, Woody	FB	6-2	222	26	3	Miami
46	Bessillieu, Don	S	6-1	200	25	3	Georgia Tech
75	Bettors, Doug	DE	6-7	260	25	4	Reno
47	Blackwood, Glenn	S	6-0	183	24	3	Texas
58	Bokamper, Kim	LB	6-6	247	27	5	San Jose St.
81	Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	229	26	5	Ohio St.
81	Cefalo, Jimmy	WR	5-11	188	25	4	Penn St.
83	Den Herder, Vern	DE	6-6	252	33	11	Cent. Iowa
63	Dennard, Mark	C	6-1	252	26	3	Texas A & M
61	Dornbrook, Thom	OL	6-2	256	25	3	Kentucky
77	Duhe, A.J.	DE	6-4	252	26	5	LSU
35	Giaquinto, Nick	RB	5-11	204	26	2	Connecticut
79	Giesler, Jon	T	6-4	260	25	3	Michigan
50	Gordon, Larry	LB	6-4	230	27	6	Arizona St.
74	Green, Cleveland	T	6-3	265	24	3	Southern
84	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-4	230	25	4	Arizona St.
82	Harris, Duriel	WR	5-11	184	27	6	New Mexico St.
36	Howell, Steve	FB	6-2	230	25	3	Baylor
37	Kozlowski, Mike	SS	6-0	197	25	2	Colorado
67	Kuechenberg, Bob	OL	6-2	255	34	12	Notre Dame
68	Laakso, Eric	OL	6-4	265	25	4	Tulane
86	Lee, Ronnie	TE	6-3	235	25	3	Baylor
28	McNeal, Don	CB	5-11	192	23	2	Alabama
89	Moore, Nat	WR	5-9	188	30	8	Florida
31	Moser, Rick	RB	6-0	210	25	4	Rhode Island
22	Nathan, Tony	RB	6-0	206	25	3	Alabama
64	Newman, Ed	G	6-2	255	30	9	Duke
54	Ortega, Ralph	LB	6-2	225	28	7	Florida
55	Rhone, Earnest	LB	6-2	224	28	6	Henderson
4	Roberts, George	P	6-0	184	26	4	Va. Tech
38	Robiskie, Terry	FB	6-1	210	27	5	LSU
80	Rose, Joe	TE	6-3	225	24	2	California
59	Shull, Steve	LB	6-1	218	23	2	William & Mary
48	Small, Gerald	CB	5-11	192	25	4	San Jose St.
57	Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	255	24	2	Alabama
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	220	31	8	Virginia Tech
45	Taylor, Ed	CB	6-0	175	28	7	Memphis St.
60	Toews, Jeff	G	6-3	255	24	3	Washington
56	Towle, Steve	LB	6-2	230	28	7	Kansas
5	Von Schamann, Uwe	PK	6-0	188	25	3	Oklahoma
24	Williams, Delvin	RB	6-0	200	30	8	Kansas
16	Woodley, David	QB	6-2	196	23	2	LSU
17	Woods, Pete	QB	6-3	214	26	1	Missouri

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Overstreet, David	RB	5-10	202	23	Oklahoma
2	Franklin, Andra	FB	5-10	225	22	Nebraska
4	Greene, Sam	WR	6-0	192	22	Las Vegas
4	Wright, Brad	QB	6-2	209	22	New Mexico
5	Poole, Ken	DE	6-3	251	23	NE Louisiana
5	Vigorito, Tom	RB	5-10	197	21	Virginia
6	Moore, Mack	DE	6-3	255	22	Texas A&M
6	Walker, Fulton	CB	5-10	193	23	W. Virginia
7	Daum, Mike	OT	6-6	256	22	Cal Poly-SLO
8	Judson, William	CB	6-0	181	22	S.C. St.
9	Noonan, John	WR	6-1	190	22	Nebraska
10	Folsom, Steve	TE	6-4	230	23	Utah
11	Jensen, Jim	QB	6-4	212	22	Boston U.
12	Alford, John	DT	6-1	277	23	S.C. St.



only possible alternative at quarterback is Shula's feeling that sore-armed Pete Woods, who has kicked around, can be rehabilitated.

Basically, it was an offensive draft, with Sam Greene, Nevada-Las Vegas's hot-dog receiver next, and New Mexico quarterback Brad Wright fourth. Greene provides a little depth for Nat Moore (47 catches, 7 touchdowns) and Duriel Harris (33 catches, a 17.7-yard average). Jimmy Cefalo, 18.1-yard average on 11 catches, had been the only sub of quality. Wright? Who knows?

The best of the other returning running backs is Terry Robiskie, the ex-Oakland Raider, who was a starter until he got hurt late in the year. Further down in the draft the Dolphins took another runner, tough, quick little Tom Vigorito of Virginia, but he signed with Montreal of the Canadian League.

Tight end is still a problem: Ronnie Lee, a blocker, is the nominal starter, with inconsistent Bruce Hardy and Joe Rose behind him.

There were two new tackles in the offensive line, Jon Geisler and Eric Laakso. Mark Dennard played much better in his second year

as the center. The strength is in the guards. Kuechenberg and Ed Newman. The most interesting sub is Dwight Stephenson, the Alabama center who was drafted second last year but played little.

Defensively, the big news was the trade which brought Bob Brudzinski, a Pro Bowl quality linebacker, to the Dolphins' 3-4. Brudzinski was an outside linebacker in LA's conventional 4-3, but he'll be moved inside, next to A.J. Duhe. The outside backers are Kim Bokamper, who tore a ligament in his knee in the final game, and Larry Gordon, who can be a major motivational problem. All four starters were first-round draft choices. Shula took a flier by signing ex-Cowboy linebacker Hollywood Henderson.

Bob Baumhower is one of the better nose tackles. He is flanked by Vern den Herder and Doug Bettors. The Dolphins shift around a lot on obvious passing situations and Bokamper slips into the line as an end. He and Duhe were the most effective pass rushers last year.

Three quarters of the secondary was new in 1980. Best of the newcomers was first-round draftee Don McNeal, another Crimson Tide star and a tough hitter who suffered a knee injury late in the season. Gerald Small lines up across from McNeal at corner. Don Bessillieu is the free safety and Glenn Blackwood plays the strong side.

George Roberts's punting average, 42.6, was the team's all-time best. Place-kicker Uwe von Schamann won three games with field goals. Bessillieu averaged 22.3 yards on kickoff returns and broke one for 87 yards. Nathan averaged 7.7-yard per punt return.

There was one important coaching change. When Dan Henning moved to the Washington Redskins as quarterback coach, Shula hired Wally English, who has an extensive background in college and the pros. His latest job was offensive coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh's strong attack. He'll have a lot of the responsibility in smoothing out Woodley.

BALTIMORE COLTS

The NFL's annual draft is designed to help the have-nots and in 1981 no have-not benefited more from the draft than the Colts. By virtue of some slick maneuvering on draft day, the Colts not only ended up with the two players they

Miami coach Don Shula looks for more offensive firepower from running back Tony Nathan (above) and wide receiver Duriel Harris (#82) in 1981.





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	21	SAN FRANCISCO	+4	OVER JETS	WIN 37-27		16	DETROIT	+2	OVER BALTIMORE	COVER 9-10
	28	ST. LOUIS	+5	OVER EAGLES	WIN 24-14		23	JETS	+6	OVER HOUSTON	WIN 31-28
OCT	5	MINNESOTA	+7	OVER PITTS	COVER 17-23	DEC	30	SAN FRANCISCO	+7	OVER NEW ENGLAND	WIN 21-17
	12	GIANTS	+7½	OVER EAGLES	LOSE 16-31		7	WASHINGTON	+6	OVER SAN DIEGO	WIN 40-17
	19	MIAMI	+4	OVER BUFFALO	WIN 17-14		14	DENVER	+3	OVER OAKLAND	PUSH 21-24
	26	CHICAGO	+7	OVER EAGLES	COVER 14-17		21	GIANTS	+7	OVER OAKLAND	LOSE 17-33

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wanted most from the senior class of collegians, but probably picked at least three starters and possibly a new place-kicker.

The men the Colts sought most fervently were Pitt fullback Randy McMillan and North Carolina defensive tackle Donnell Thompson. It was obvious that both players would go in the first round. This is what the Colts did to arrange for their early Christmas morning:

They traded halfback Joe Washington, who had become excess with the arrival of Curtis Dickey, to Washington for a second-round draft choice. Then, to their surprise, McMillan was available on their own first-round selection so they took him. Thompson remained unselected as the draft moved six spots forward. Baltimore then worked a trade with Minnesota, which was in the 18th position. The Colts gave the Vikings both their second-round choices for Minnesota's first and selected Thompson.

Another possible starter was drafted in round three, Washington offensive tackle Randy Van Divier. Down the list came Clemson place-kicker Obed Ariri.

McMillan helps the Colts in three ways. Not only does he have 4.5 speed as a ball-carrier, he catches well. But his primary contribution should be as a blocker for speed back Dickey. McMillan's ability to block makes him more important than a new tackle or guard for Dickey, who gets into the secondary in a blink—provided he is given some seepage at the line of scrimmage. Dickey ran for 11 touchdowns as a rookie. He caught two touchdown passes and his 13 scores tied him with Earl Campbell for the AFC lead.

Thompson can be the stopper the Colts need, either at tackle or end. The Baltimore defense held the opposition under 17 points in just three games. Over the last five games, four of them losses, it surrendered an average of 33 points per outing. Assuming Fred Cook, once a star defensive end but an unhappy under-producer last year, gets his wish and is traded, Thompson will play end. Another rookie, tackle Bubba Green of North Carolina State, was considered the sleeper of the draft by the Colt scouting department. If that assessment is accurate, he, too, could start.

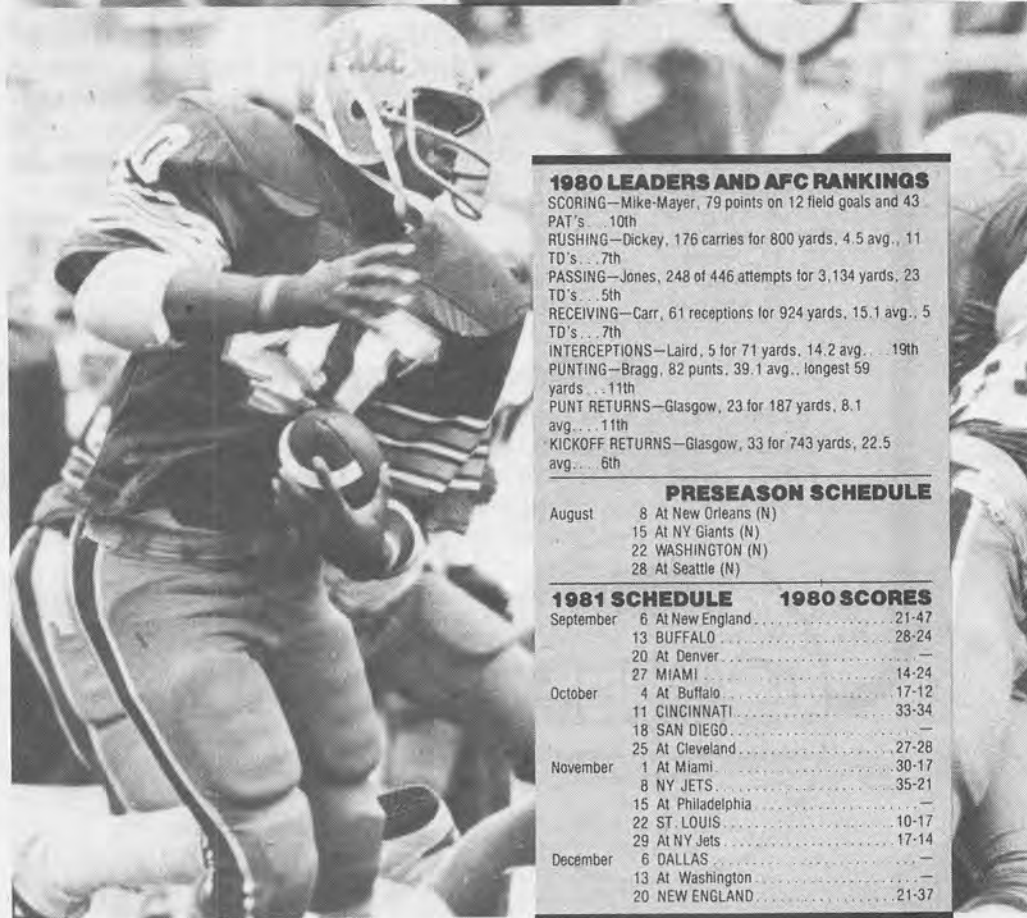
Van Divier will be aimed directly at Jeff Hart's right tackle job. Both Hart and right guard Ken Huff had subpar seasons.

If Ariri shows anything during the exhibition season, he will have a strong chance of being the Colt kicker in 1981. The incumbent, Steve Mike-Mayer, missed too many important field goals last season.

With Dickey and McMillan in the backfield, Baltimore has the potential for enormous firepower, since Bert Jones recovered from his two-year siege of arm troubles and reclaimed his title as the NFL's most dangerous quarterback. Jones is unpopular in Baltimore for a lot of reasons—his hot headed, hot-dog ways on the field; his unwillingness to make Baltimore his year-round home; a subtle, under-the-surface resentment of him as successor to the legendary Johnny Unitas. But popular or not, no player in the league has more of a rightful claim to be called the "Franchise."

"Jones can manipulate a defense because you have to worry about him running as well as throwing," says Fred Smerlas, Buffalo's Pro

Baltimore's premier wide receiver, Roger Carr (top), and No. 1 draft choice, fullback Randy McMillan



1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Mike-Mayer, 79 points on 12 field goals and 43 PAT's... 10th
RUSHING—Dickey, 176 carries for 800 yards, 4.5 avg., 11 TD's... 7th
PASSING—Jones, 248 of 446 attempts for 3,134 yards, 23 TD's... 5th
RECEIVING—Carr, 61 receptions for 924 yards, 15.1 avg., 5 TD's... 7th
INTERCEPTIONS—Laird, 5 for 71 yards, 14.2 avg., 19th
PUNTING—Bragg, 82 punts, 39.1 avg., longest 59 yards... 11th
PUNT RETURNS—Glasgow, 23 for 187 yards, 8.1 avg... 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Glasgow, 33 for 743 yards, 22.5 avg... 6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At New Orleans (N)
15 At NY Giants (N)
22 WASHINGTON (N)
28 At Seattle (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 At New England	21-47
	13 BUFFALO	28-24
	20 At Denver	—
	27 MIAMI	14-24
October	4 At Buffalo	17-12
	11 CINCINNATI	33-34
	18 SAN DIEGO	—
	25 At Cleveland	27-28
November	1 At Miami	30-17
	8 NY JETS	35-21
	15 At Philadelphia	—
	22 ST. LOUIS	10-17
	29 At NY Jets	17-14
December	6 DALLAS	—
	13 At Washington	—
	20 NEW ENGLAND	21-37

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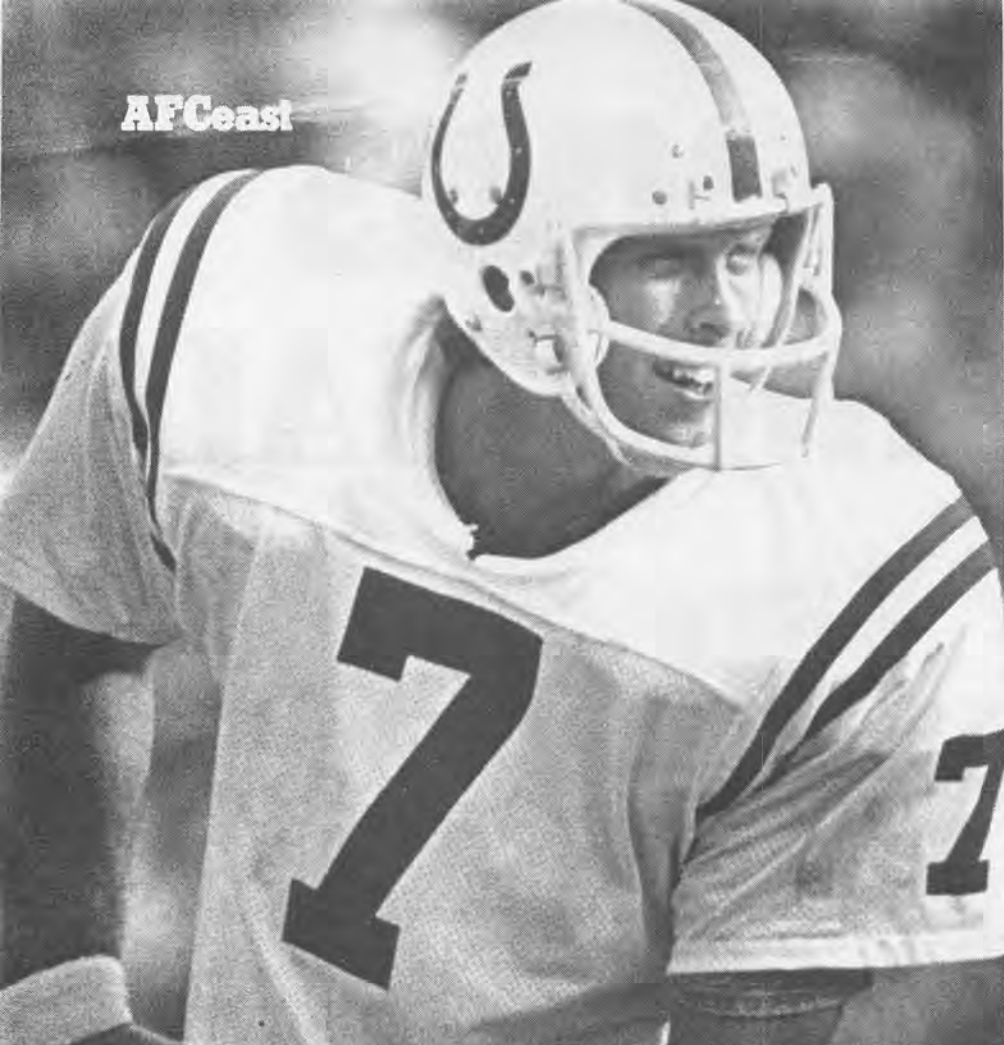
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Quarterback Bert Jones (#7), running back Curtis Dickey (#27), safety Bruce Laird (#40), and linebacker Barry Krauss (#55) of the Baltimore Colts

Bowl nose tackle. The Colts beat the division champion Bills twice last year.

"He gives us a certain attitude," says veteran offensive tackle George Kunz of Jones. "We realize that he can move the ball against anyone and we have that chance to win," chimes in defensive tackle Mike Barnes.

Jones passed for 3,134 yards and 23 touchdowns last year on a team which had the fourth-worst won-lost record in the AFC. With a more experienced Dickey and the addition of McMillan, who knows?

Roger Carr is an often-injured wide receiver, but he goes as Jones goes. Last year he caught 61 passes for a 15.1-yard average and five touchdowns. Raymond Butler, a major surprise as a rookie, caught 34 for a 16.9-yard average. Tight end Reese McCall caught 18 passes for five touchdowns and a 17.9-yard average, but he's been a disappointment since the Colts made him a first-round draft pick. Rookie Tim Sherwin of Boston College will push him.

The left side of the Colt line, tackle Wade Griffin and guard Bob Pratt, is solid, but Ray

Donaldson, a high draft pick a year ago, could push center Ken Mendenhall. Huff is safer than Hart. Kunz retired as backup for Hart. Tim Foley disappointed as a rookie.

The defensive players griped and fought against the plan of coach Mike McCormack to install the 3-4 alignment as an integral part of the defense. But McCormack, who did well in his first year on the job, is going to insist that the 3-4 is used this season, Barnes, who provided the only consistent pass rush, is the key veteran in the line. He's also the only solid one. Herb Orvis is 35. Joe Ehrmann has been cursed with injuries. Mike Ozdowski is ordinary.

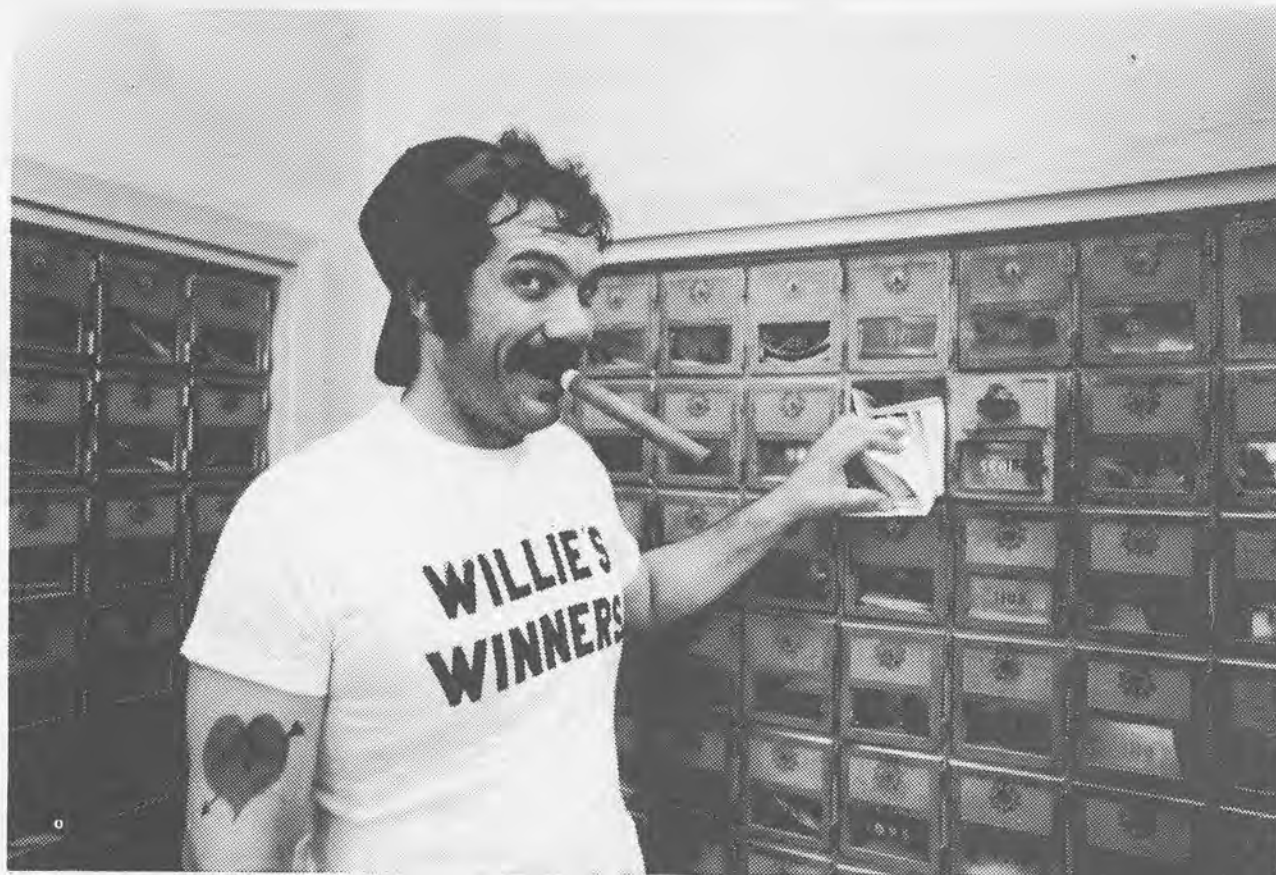
McCormack assessed the linebacking as "our strongest point" last season, then was

COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

NFL									
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college		
26	Anderson, Kim	CB	5-11	182	24	2	Arizona St.		
41	Bailey, Mark	RB	6-4	237	27	3	Long Beach		
63	Barnes, Mike	DT	6-6	251	31	9	Miami		
44	Blackwood, Lyle	FS	6-1	188	30	9	TCU		
4	Bragg, Mike	P	5-11	186	35	14	Richmond		
47	Brazell, Larry	CB	6-0	195	27	3	USC		
84	Burke, Randy	WR	6-2	190	26	4	Kentucky		
80	Butler, Ray	WR	6-3	190	25	2	USC		
81	Carr, Roger	WR	6-2	193	29	8	La. Tech		
72	Cook, Fred	DE	6-4	252	29	8	S. Mississippi		
87	DeRoo, Brian	WR	6-3	190	25	3	Redlands		
27	Dickey, Curtis	RB	6-0	201	25	2	Texas A&M		
31	Dixon, Zachary	RB	6-0	200	25	2	Temple		
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	252	23	2	Georgia		
76	Ehrmann, Joe	DT	6-4	252	32	9	Syracuse		
73	Fernandes, Ron	DE	6-5	256	30	6	E. Michigan		
79	Fields, Greg	DE	6-7	262	26	3	Grambling		
78	Foley, Tim	OT	6-6	260	23	1	Notre Dame		
66	Foote, Chris	C	6-3	250	25	2	USC		
	Formica, Tom	OT	6-5	251	25	1	Colorado St.		
38	Franklin, Cleveland	FB	6-1	212	26	4	Baylor		
29	Garry, Ben	RB	6-10	223	25	3	S. Mississippi		
25	Glasgow, Nesby	DB	5-10	185	24	3	Washington		
69	Griffin, Wade	OT	6-5	245	27	5	Mississippi		
68	Hart, Jeff	OT	6-5	265	28	5	Oregon St.		
	Hartwig, Dan	QB	6-4	215	24	1	Cal. Lutheran		
42	Hatchett, Derrick	CB	5-11	180	23	2	Texas		
58	Heimkreiter, Steve	LB	6-2	226	24	2	Notre Dame		
62	Huff, Ken	G	6-4	258	28	7	N. Carolina		
90	Johnson, Gary Don	DT	6-4	263	25	2	Baylor		
	Johnston, Skip	P	6-1	172	24	1	Auburn		
7	Jones, Bert	QB	6-3	209	30	9	LSU		
51	Jones, Ricky	LB	6-1	215	26	5	Tuskegee		
55	Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	238	24	3	Alabama		
40	Laird, Bruce	SS	6-1	194	31	10	American In.		
11	Landry, Greg	QB	6-4	210	35	14	Massachusetts		
	Male, Charles	K	5-10	180	25	1	Notre Dame		
86	McCall, Reese	TE	6-7	235	25	4	Auburn		
23	McCauley, Don	RB	6-1	211	32	11	N. Carolina		
57	Mendenhall, Ken	C	6-3	238	33	11	Oklahoma		
5	Mike-Mayer, Steve	K	6-0	180	34	7	Maryland		
65	Moore, Jimmy	OT	6-4	271	24	1	Ohio St.		
	Newhall, Forrest	TE	6-3	235	23	1	Virginia		
88	Orvis, Herb	DT	6-4	255	35	10	Colorado		
71	Ozdowski, Mike	DE	6-5	247	26	4	Virginia		
37	Pinkney, Reggie	SS	5-11	187	26	5	E. Carolina		
61	Pratt, Robert	G	6-4	243	30	8	N. Carolina		
54	Shiver, Sanders	LB	6-2	228	26	6	Car-Newman		
56	Simonini, Ed	LB	6-0	206	26	6	Texas A&M		
39	Sims, Marvin	FB	6-4	237	24	2	Clemson		
52	Smith, Ed	LB	6-2	217	24	2	Vanderbilt		
	Stepney, Sam	LB	6-2	230	24	1	Boston U.		
20	Washington, Joe	RB	5-10	179	28	6	Oklahoma		
	Wilkerson, Daryl	DL	6-4	200	23	1	Houston		
59	Woods, Mike	LB	6-2	237	27	3	Cincinnati		

DRAFTIES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	McMillan, Randy	RB	6-1	226	23	Pittsburgh
1	Thompson, Donnell	DE	6-5	257	23	North Carolina
3	Van Oliver, Randy	OT	6-5	276	23	Washington
4	Sherwin, Tim	TE	6-5	235	23	Boston College
6	Green, Bubba	DT	6-4	278	24	N.C. State
7	Ariri, Obed	K	5-9	162	26	Clemson
8	Sitton, Ken	S	6-3	200	22	Oklahoma
8	Taylor, Hosea	DT	6-5	265	23	Houston
9	Gooch, Tim	DE	6-2	241	23	Kentucky
10	Gerken, Gregg	LB	6-5	238	22	North Arizona
10	Bryant, Trent	CB	5-9	180	22	Arkansas
11	Smith, Holden	WR	6-2	190	23	California
12	Scoggins, Eric	LB	6-3	215	22	USC



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New York Jets' coach Walt Michaels

1980 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Leahy, 78 points on 14 field goals and 36 PAT's... 11th
RUSHING—Dierking, 156 carries for 567 yards, 3.6 avg., 6 TD's... 16th
PASSING—Todd, 264 of 479 attempts for 3,329 yards, 17 TD's... 14th
RECEIVING—Harper, 50 receptions for 634 yards, 12.7 avg., 3 TD's... 18th
INTERCEPTIONS—Schroy, 8 for 91 yards, 11.4 avg., 1 TD... 3rd
PUNTING—Ramsey, 73 punts, 42.4 avg., longest 59 yards... 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Harper, 28 for 242 yards, 8.6 avg... 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Harper, 49 for 1,070 yards, 21.8 avg... 9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 At Denver (N)
 15 At Atlanta (N)
 22 At NY Giants (N)
 29 PHILADELPHIA (N at East Rutherford)

1981 SCHEDULE

September 6 At Buffalo... 10-20
 13 CINCINNATI...
 20 At Pittsburgh...
 27 HOUSTON... (OT) 31-28
 October 4 At Miami... 24-17
 11 NEW ENGLAND... 11-21
 18 BUFFALO... 24-31
 25 SEATTLE... 17-27
 November 1 At NY Giants...
 8 At Baltimore... 21-35
 15 At New England... 21-34
 22 MIAMI... 17-14
 29 BALTIMORE... 14-17
 December 6 At Seattle...
 12 At Cleveland... 14-17
 20 GREEN BAY...

1980 SCORES



Running backs Freeman McNeil (top) and Marion Barber (left) were Jets' top draft picks; safety Darrol Ray (right) had superb 1980 rookie season.

embarrassed by the performances he got from it. Sanders Shiver and Mike Woods have potential on the outside, but Woods is still an in-and-outter and he didn't win any points when he showed up out of shape at the spring camp. Shiver is a hitter, but he's never been the producer the Colts thought he would be. Barry Krauss, the No. 1 pick three seasons ago, is still a flop on the field and an attitude problem to boot. The best is middle backer Ed Simonini, who always gives the effort but occasionally gets overpowered because of his small size.

The most valuable of the Baltimore defenders last year was veteran strong safety Bruce Laird, who should have been picked for the Pro Bowl. Free safety Nesby Glasgow must cut down on his mental errors. Corner Derrick Hatchett, who started as a rookie, showed some good signs but lacked aggressiveness. Right corner Larry Braziel was picked on often.

Mike-Mayer isn't the only kicker in jeopardy. Punter Mike Bragg was marginal, at best. Glasgow did a good job as punt- and kickoff-return man, although it might have distracted from his play in the secondary. There is one flaw in the special-teams statistics. There were five touchdowns scored against them.

Besides improvement on the field, the Colts have to fight another battle in Baltimore: winning back the fans. They lost all but two of their home games last year and only 16,941 showed up for the Kansas City finale. There were 12,995 no shows.

The biggest problem is the alienation of the Baltimore fans by Robert Irsay, the erratic owner. Irsay's frequent threats to pull the team out of Baltimore turned off the patrons. Now that it has been made clear to him by the rest of the NFL that he is going nowhere, Irsay is trying to win back the favor of the people. He started by writing a letter of apology to the season-ticket holders.

McCormack will have to do the rest in the won-lost column.

NEW YORK JETS

Leon Hess, the oil magnate who owns controlling interest in the New York Jets, is a man of enormous tolerance. The Jets had their worst record in the history of the franchise, going back to the giddy days when they were the Titans. Townsend Martin, who owned one quarter of the team, gave coach Walt Michaels a vote of no confidence.

Still, Michaels did not come close to getting fired, thanks to Hess's tolerance. Martin sold his 25 percent interest in the team to Hess after the season, so the in-house criticism was

Terry Bradshaw
throwing long ...

Franco Harris blasting off tackle ...

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NFL

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
60	Alexander, Dan	G	6-4	255	26	5	LSU
83	Barkum, Jerome	TE	6-4	225	31	10	Jackson St.
30	Batton, Bobby	RB	5-11	190	24	2	Las Vegas
64	Bingham, Guy	OL	6-3	255	23	2	Montana
54	Blinka, Stan	LB	6-2	230	24	3	Sam Houston
51	Buttle, Greg	LB	6-3	232	27	6	Penn St.
22	Clayton, Ralph	RB	6-3	222	23	2	Michigan
55	Crosby, Ron	LB	6-3	222	26	4	Penn St.
68	Cunningham, E.	G	6-3	257	24	3	Penn St.
84	Darby, Paul	WR	5-10	192	25	3	SW Texas
94	DeLoach, Ralph	DE	6-5	254	24	2	California
25	Dierking, Scott	RB	5-10	215	26	5	Purdue
26	Dykes, Donald	CB	5-11	180	26	3	S.E. La.
65	Fields, Joe	C	6-2	253	28	7	Widener
81	Gaffney, Derrick	WR	6-1	180	26	4	Florida
21	Gaines, Clark	RB	6-1	209	27	6	Wake Forest
99	Gastineau, Mark	DE	6-5	280	25	3	E. Cent. Okla.
90	Godfrey, Chris	DT	6-3	250	23	2	Michigan
42	Harper, Bruce	RB	5-8	177	26	5	Kutztown
47	Holmes, Jerry	CB	6-2	175	24	2	W. Virginia
40	Jackson, Bobby	CB	5-10	175	25	4	Florida St.
27	Johnson, Jesse	CB	6-3	185	24	2	Colorado
89	Jones, Bobby	WR	5-11	180	26	4	None
80	Jones, Johnny	WR	5-11	180	23	2	Texas
73	Klecko, Joe	DE	6-3	265	28	5	Temple
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	195	30	8	St. Louis
24	Lewis, Kenny	RB	6-0	190	24	2	Virginia Tech
33	Long, Kevin	FB	6-1	218	26	5	South Carolina
29	Lynn, Johnny	CB	6-0	190	25	3	UCLA
93	Lyons, Marty	DT	6-5	260	24	3	Alabama
53	McKibben, Mike	LB	6-3	228	25	3	Kent St.
56	Mehl, Lance	LB	6-3	230	23	2	Penn St.
44	Newton, Tom	FB	6-0	213	27	5	California
79	Powell, Marvin	T	6-5	268	26	5	USC
15	Ramsey, Chuck	P	6-2	189	29	5	Wake Forest
66	Rasmussen, Randy	G	6-2	255	36	15	Kearney St.
28	Ray, Darrol	FS	6-1	200	23	2	Oklahoma
92	Roberts, Wesley	DE	6-4	260	24	2	TCU
61	Roman, John	T	6-4	260	29	6	Idaho St.
4	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	205	26	4	Tennessee
74	Salaam, Abdul	DT	6-3	265	28	6	Kent St.
48	Schroy, Ken	S	6-2	196	29	5	Maryland
82	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	235	25	4	Penn St.
50	Sullivan, John	LB	6-1	225	25	3	Illinois
14	Todd, Richard	QB	6-2	203	28	6	Alabama
70	Waldemore, Stan	OL	6-4	250	26	4	Nebraska
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	175	26	5	California
72	Ward, Chris	T	6-3	270	26	3	Ohio St.
71	Winkel, Bob	DT	6-4	255	26	3	Kentucky

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	McNeil, Freeman	RB	5-11	220	22	UCLA
2	Barber, Marion	FB	6-3	235	21	Minnesota
3	Rudolph, Ben	OL	6-5	255	23	Long Beach
4	Washington, Al	LB	6-3	235	22	Ohio St.
5	Keys, Tyrone	DL	6-7	275	21	Miss. St.
6	Woodring, John	LB	6-2	230	22	Brown
7	Neil, Kenny	DL	6-3	250	22	Iowa St.
8	Jones, Lloyd	WR	6-3	185	23	BYU
8	Watts, J.C.	DB	5-11	185	24	Oklahoma
9	Larry, Ad. Dewey	DB	5-11	191	22	Las Vegas
10	Wetzel, Marty	LB	6-3	235	23	Tulane
11	Gall, Ed	DT	6-4	265	23	Maryland
12	Moeller, Mike	OT	6-5	280	22	Drake



Running back Scott Dierking (top), receiver Lam Jones (#80), linebackers Stan Blinka (#54) and Ron Crosby (#55), and end Joe Klecko of the Jets

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California	Kansas St.	N. C. State	Syracuse	Wash. St.
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Colorado	Maryland	Ohio State	Texas	Wisconsin
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Florida	Minnesota	Oregon St.	TCU	1969 Missouri
Florida St.	Michigan	Penn. St.	Texas Tech	1975 Ariz. St.

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quieted. But even Hess's tolerance has its limits.

Michaels' won-lost record over four seasons is 23-39. How long he continues depends upon how successful he is in unlocking the 1950's time capsule in which he has imprisoned himself. Walt can't keep pointing a finger at the talent too much longer. This year the Jets' biggest priorities were for a power back with speed and a pass-rushing defensive lineman. They drafted two power runners with speed, Freeman McNeil of UCLA and Marion Barber of Minnesota, with their first two picks. In round three came the pass rusher, Ben Rudolph of Long Beach State.

Last year the Jets swapped two first-round choices for San Francisco's second pick in the entire draft in order to select the premier wide receiver, speedy Lam Jones. Jones labored as a rookie, dropping 18 passes and failing to learn the system. But Michaels got cold feet too fast. Even when Wesley Walker was healthy—which wasn't often—and Jones was in the lineup, the offense consisted mainly of dump passes to the running backs. Two backs, Bruce Harper and Clark Gaines, were the most frequent targets.

Richard Todd, who led the NFL with 30 interceptions, often looked as if he wasn't willing to risk allowing a wide receiver to run a deep route. He was sacked 42 times. Last season was supposed to be the time when Todd emerged as the Jets' leader. His rival, Matt Robinson, was traded to Denver and Todd had the Jets' offense all to himself. What happened was that he still looked as if confidence would never be in his grasp. He over reacted to criticism from the fans and the press.

Still, the big-strike possibilities in the passing game are there. Lam Jones averaged 19.3 yards on the 25 passes he did catch. Walker averaged 20.9 yards on his 18 catches. Even Derrick Gaffney, a possession-type receiver, averaged 16.5.

Plow-horse back Scott Dierking led the Jets in rushing with just 567 yards and the New Yorkers, who led the league in ground gaining the year before, sank to ninth in the AFC, a fact which makes the 1979 figure suspect.

Even when the Jets elected to conduct a conservative offense, they didn't conduct it very intelligently. To solve that problem, they hired Joe Walton, who has a sound reputation, as offensive coordinator. When the Jets convened for the first time in mini-camp, Walton had a lot of people in motion most of the time. He also indicated the conservatism will be scrapped.

"I never had receivers like these to work with," says Walton, who formerly served the Giants and Redskins. He has big plans for Walker and Jones. "Todd can be a really great quarterback," he adds. Well, maybe.

McNeil and Barber may play a lot by default. Gaines's career is clouded by a broken leg he suffered last year. Harper, who is one of the more versatile backs in the NFL, was treated for an inflammation of the heart during the off-season.

No matter what runners play, they will need better help from the offensive line. Only tackle Marvin Powell had a first-rate season last year. The other tackle, Chris Ward, should be among the best, but he came close to setting an unofficial record for holding last season. Dan Alexander has a hold on one guard spot, but the other position may get down to a fight between veteran Randy Rasmussen and Guy Bingham, who made the all-rookie team. Rasmussen, the

only remaining player from the Jets' Super Bowl championship team, suffered his first injury last season and missed the last half while his knee healed. The center is Joe Fields, who is backed up by Stan Waldemore. Tight end Mickey Shuler's reputation rests with his blocking, but he can be a reliable catcher.

Defensively, the Jets were 26th in the NFL against the pass. Most of the trouble was in the secondary, since the pass rush wasn't that bad. Mark Gastineau, the left end who was in his first full season as a starter, had 11½ sacks, which put him among the AFC's top five. Joe Klecko, who played the right end, had 10½.

The surprising thing is that the opposition worked often on the Jets' left side, aiming at Gastineau and at linebacker Greg Buttle. Once the Jets' big-play man, Buttle hasn't filled that role in a couple of seasons. Rudolph will be aimed at someone's job, maybe even one of the tackles, Abdul Salaam or Marty Lyons.

Stan Blinka is a tough man against the rush at middle linebacker, but Ron Crosby was less than a sensation on the right side. He could get a run from rookie Al Washington of Ohio State.

After McNeil and Barber, nine of the next ten selections were defensive players—Rudolph, Washington, Mississippi State end Tyrone Keys (who signed with British Columbia of the CFL), Brown linebacker John Woodring, Iowa State tackle Kenny Neil, Oklahoma quarterback J.C. Watts (who was to have been tried as a defensive back but who has quif football), Admiral

Dewey Larry of Nevada Las Vegas, another defensive back; Tulane linebacker Marty Wetzel, and Maryland tackle Edward Gall.

There is a new defensive backfield coach, too. He's Billy Baird, a safety on the Jets' Super Bowl club. The retirement of John Mazur, the defensive coordinator, due to Parkinson's disease, caused the reshuffling of the staff. Joe Gardi becomes coordinator and Ralph Baker the linebacker coach.

The picture in the secondary is much brighter at safety than it is at corner. Ken Schroy didn't start in the first five games and missed the last two due to injury, but he led the team in interceptions with eight. Darrol Ray started as a rookie and had some big moments. He scored twice, on a 79-yard interception return and on a blocked field goal. He was a popular choice on the all-rookie team.

The corners do not look so glowing. Donald Dykes has ability, but he did not endear himself to Michaels when he allowed his man, Frank Lewis, to get behind him for a last-minute touchdown catch in a game against Buffalo which the Jets seemed sure of, if not winning, at least taking into overtime. Dykes then compounded the error by pointing fingers at the coaches. The other corner, Bobby Jackson, is often the focus of the opposition's game plan.

Chuck Ramsey had good year punting, with a 42.4-yard average, but place-kicker Pat Leahy came close to being cut by Michaels at least once. He finished 14-for-22.

Quarterback Richard Todd had a disappointing 1980 season with the Jets.



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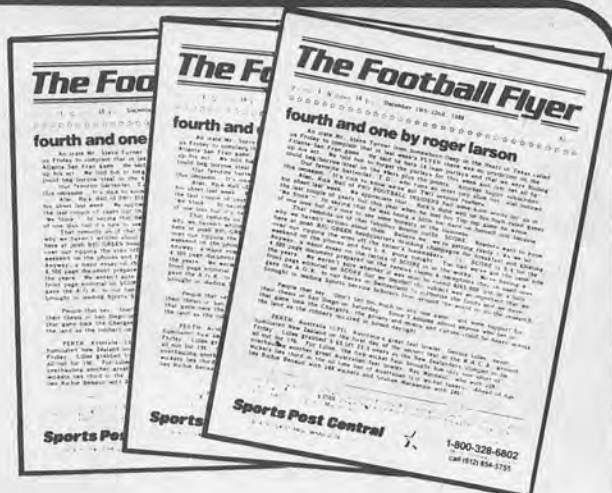
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postseason review

1980 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

Lester Hayes, Burgess Owens,
and Mike Davis halt Harold Carmichael.

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	w	l	t	pct.	pts.	op
* Buffalo	11	5	0	.688	320	260
New England	10	6	0	.625	441	325
Miami	8	8	0	.500	266	305
Baltimore	7	9	0	.438	355	387
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	302	395

CENTRAL DIVISION

* Cleveland	11	5	0	.688	357	310
# Houston	11	5	0	.688	295	251
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	352	313
Cincinnati	6	10	0	.375	244	312

WESTERN DIVISION

* San Diego	11	5	0	.688	418	327
# Oakland	11	5	0	.688	364	306
Kansas City	8	8	0	.500	319	336
Denver	8	8	0	.500	310	323
Seattle	4	12	0	.250	291	408

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EASTERN DIVISION

	w	l	t	pct.	pts.	op
* Philadelphia	12	4	0	.750	384	222
# Dallas	12	4	0	.750	454	311
Washington	6	10	0	.375	261	293
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313	299	350
N.Y. Giants	4	12	0	.250	249	425

CENTRAL DIVISION

* Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	317	308
Detroit	9	7	0	.563	334	272
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	304	264
Tampa Bay	5	10	1	.344	231	371
Green Bay	5	10	1	.344	271	341

WESTERN DIVISION

* Atlanta	12	4	0	.750	405	272
# Los Angeles	11	5	0	.688	424	289
San Francisco	6	10	0	.375	320	415
New Orleans	1	15	0	.063	291	487

NFC WILD CARD GAME

At Irving, TX, December 28, 1980

Los Angeles	6	7	0	0-12
Dallas	3	10	14	7-34

SCORING

Dallas: Septien 28-yard field goal
 Los Angeles: Thomas 1-yard run (kick failed)
 Dallas: Septien 29-yard field goal
 Los Angeles: Dennard 21-yard pass from Ferragamo (Corral PAT)
 Dallas: Dorsett 12-yard run (Septien PAT)
 Dallas: Dorsett 10-yard pass from White (Septien PAT)
 Dallas: B. Johnson 35-yard pass from White (Septien PAT)
 Dallas: D. Pearson 11-yard pass from White (Septien PAT)

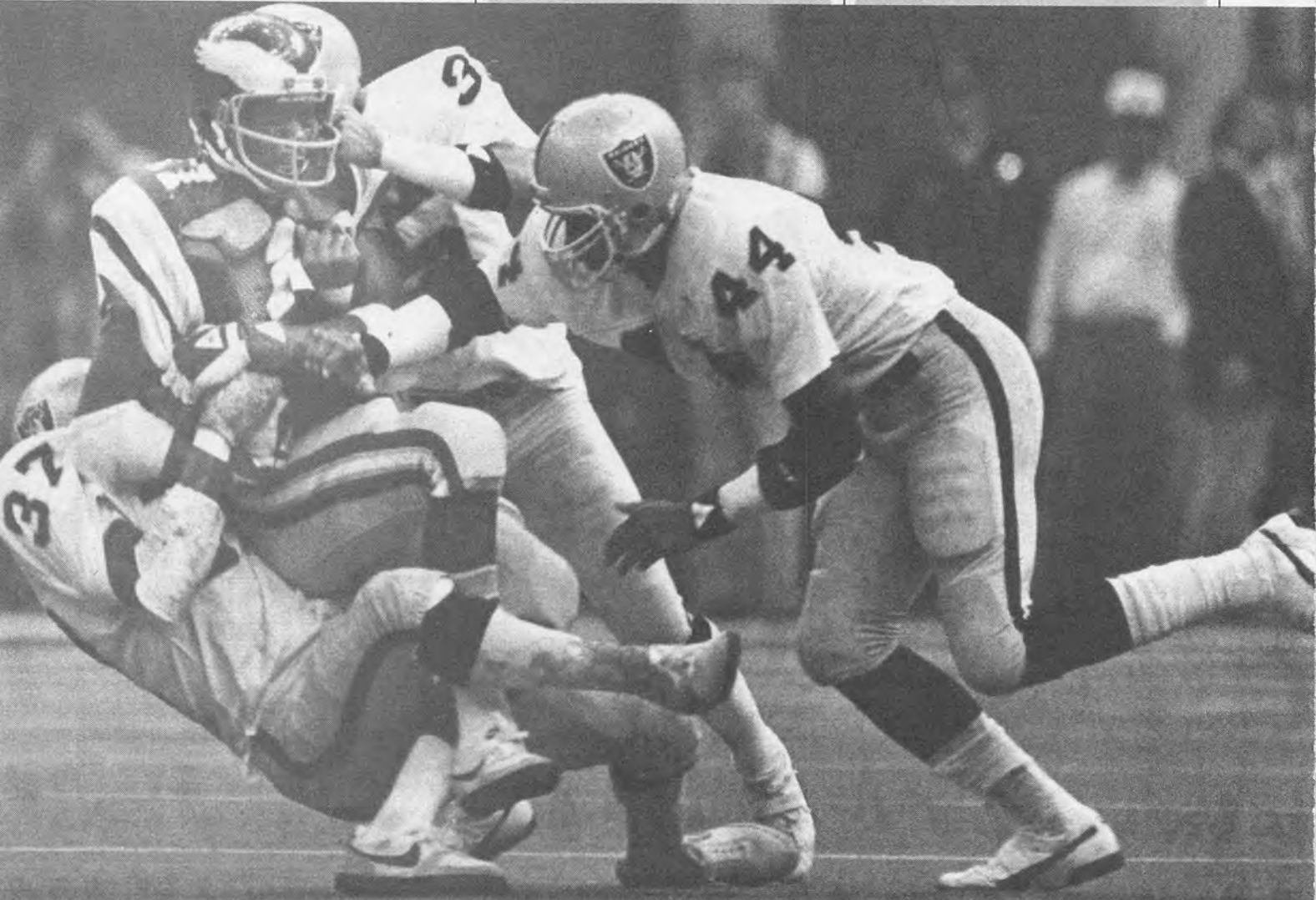
TEAM STATISTICS

	Los Angeles	Dallas
First downs	15	29
Rushes-yards	24-92	46-338
Passing yards	168	190
Return yards	53	103
Passes	14-30-3	12-25-3
Punts	6-39	2-44
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	5-50	11-79
Attendance	64-533	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Los Angeles—J. Thomas 14-48, Bryant 10-44; Dallas—Dorsett 22-160, Springs 4-58, Newhouse 11-46, Jones 5-38, Newsome 2-34, White 2-2
 Passing: Los Angeles—Ferragamo 14-30-3—175; Dallas—White 12-25-3—190
 Receiving: Los Angeles—Dennard 6-117, J. Thomas 3-26, Nelson 1-12, Waddy 1-9, Bryant 2-7, Guman 1-5; Dallas—D. Pearson 4-60, Dorsett 3-28, Saldi 2-52, B. Johnson 1-35, Hill 1-8, DuPree 1-7

* Division Champion # Wild Card For Playoffs



WILD CARD GAME

Oakland 27, Houston 7 • Dallas 34, Los Angeles 13
DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
 San Diego 20, Buffalo 14 • Philadelphia 31, Minn. 16
 Oakland 14, Cleveland 12 • Dallas 30, Atlanta 27
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
 Oakland 34, San Diego 27 • Philadelphia 20, Dallas 7
SUPER BOWL XV
 Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
AFC-NFC PRO BOWL
 NFC 21, AFC 7

AFC WILD CARD GAME

At Oakland, CA, December 28, 1980

Houston	7	0	0	0-7
Oakland	3	7	0	17-27

SCORING

Oakland: Bahr 47-yard field goal
 Houston: Campbell 1-yard run (Fritsch PAT)
 Oakland: Christensen 1-yard pass from Plunkett (Bahr PAT)
 Oakland: Whittington 44-yard pass from Plunkett (Bahr PAT)
 Oakland: Bahr 37-yard field goal
 Oakland: Hayes 20-yard interception return (Bahr PAT)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Houston	Oakland
First downs	18	12
Rushes-yards	33-97	35-111
Passing yards	178	139
Return yards	84	55
Passes	15-27-2	8-23-1
Punts	9-44	9-51
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-0
Penalties-yards	8-64	14-91
Attendance: 52,762		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Houston—Campbell 27-91, Carpenter 5-9, T. Wilson 1-minus 3; Oakland—King 13-55, van Eeghen 14-46, Whittington 5-11, Jensen 2-0, Plunkett 1-minus 1
 Passing: Houston—Stabler 15-26-2—243, Campbell 0-1-0—0; Oakland—Plunkett 8-23-1—168
 Receiving: Houston—Barber 4-83, Renfro 3-69, Casper 3-31, Carpenter 3-26, Coleman 1-23, B. Johnson 1-11; Oakland—Whittington 2-64, Chester 2-12, King 1-37, Branch 1-33, van Eeghen 1-21, Christensen 1-1

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF GAME

At Atlanta, GA, January 4, 1981

Dallas	3	7	0	20-30
Atlanta	10	7	7	3-27

SCORING

Atlanta: Mazzetti 38-yard field goal
 Atlanta: Jenkins 60-yard pass from Bartkowski (Mazzetti PAT)
 Dallas: Septien 38-yard field goal
 Dallas: DuPree 5-yard pass from White (Septien PAT)
 Atlanta: Cain 1-yard run (Mazzetti PAT)
 Atlanta: Andrews 12-yard pass from Bartkowski (Mazzetti PAT)
 Dallas: Newhouse 1-yard run (Septien PAT)
 Atlanta: Mazzetti 34-yard field goal
 Dallas: D. Pearson 14-yard pass from White (Septien PAT)
 Dallas: D. Pearson 23-yard pass from White (PAT failed)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Dallas	Atlanta
First downs	22	18
Rushes-yards	24-112	27-86
Passing yards	310	285
Return yards	minus 4	30
Passes	25-40-1	18-33-1
Punts	4-39	4-36
Fumbles-lost	4-1	1-1
Penalties-yards	6-72	4-48
Attendance: 60,022		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Dallas—Dorsett 10-51, Newhouse 6-31, D. Pearson 1-9, White 4-1, P. Pearson 1-11, DuPree 1-5, Newsome 1-4; Atlanta—Andrews 14-43, Cain 13-43
 Passing: Dallas—White 25-39-1—322, Springs 0-1-0—0; Atlanta—Bartkowski 18-33-1—320
 Receiving: Dallas—Hill 4-53, DuPree 3-29, Springs 3-39, P. Pearson 4-51, D. Pearson 5-90, Dorsett 5-40, Johnson 1-20; Atlanta—Miller 3-48, Francis 4-66, Jenkins 4-155, Jackson 1-12, Andrews 2-19, Cain 2-20

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF GAME

At San Diego, CA, January 3, 1981

Buffalo	0	14	0	0-14
San Diego	3	0	7	10-20

SCORING

San Diego: Benirschke 22-yard field goal
 Buffalo: Leaks 1-yard run (Mike-Mayer PAT)
 Buffalo: Lewis 9-yard pass from Ferguson (Mike-Mayer PAT)
 San Diego: Joiner 9-yard pass from Fouts (Benirschke PAT)
 San Diego: Benirschke 22-yard field goal
 San Diego: Smith 50-yard pass from Fouts (Benirschke PAT)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Buffalo	San Diego
First downs	17	21
Rushes-yards	39-97	25-96
Passing yards	147	301
Return yards	13	76
Passes	15-30-3	22-37-1
Punts	6-45	4-28
Fumbles-lost	0-0	3-2
Penalties-yards	5-40	6-66
Attendance: 52,028		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Buffalo—Cribbs 18-53, Brown 9-17, Manucci 2-21, Leaks 4-6; San Diego—Muncie 18-80, Thomas 5-22, Fouts 2-minus 6
 Passing: Buffalo—Ferguson 15-29-3—180, Manucci 0-1-0—0; San Diego—Fouts 22-37-1—314
 Receiving: Buffalo—Brammer 4-62, Butler 2-19, Cribbs 4-36, Lewis 3-45, Hooks 1-1, Leaks 1-17; San Diego—Winslow 1-5, McCrary 2-19, Jefferson 7-102, Muncie 6-53, Joiner 4-83, Thomas 1-2, Smith 1-50

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF GAME

At Philadelphia, PA, January 3, 1981

Minnesota	7	7	2	0-16
Philadelphia	0	7	14	10-31

SCORING

Minnesota: White 30-yard pass from Kramer (Danmeier PAT)
 Minnesota: Brown 1-yard run (Danmeier PAT)
 Philadelphia: Carmichael 9-yard pass from Jaworski (Franklin PAT)
 Philadelphia: Montgomery 8-yard run (Franklin PAT)
 Minnesota: Safety, Jaworski tackled in end zone
 Philadelphia: Montgomery 5-yard run (Franklin PAT)
 Philadelphia: Franklin 33-yard field goal
 Philadelphia: Harrington 2-yard run (Franklin PAT)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Minnesota	Philadelphia
First downs	14	24
Rushes-yards	13-36	42-126
Passing yards	179	179
Return yards	18	43
Passes	19-39-5	17-38-2
Punts	5-40	5-34
Fumbles-lost	3-3	1-1
Penalties-yards	5-27	4-30
Attendance: 68,434		

Oakland linebacker Rod Martin picked off three of Ron Jaworski's passes in last year's Super Bowl.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Minnesota—Brown 5-14, Miller 1-2, Young 2-0, Paschal 4-26, White 1-minus 6; Philadelphia—Montgomery 26-74, Giammona 7-11, Harris 7-27, Parker 1-12, Harrington 1-2
 Passing: Minnesota—Kramer 19-39-5—209; Philadelphia—Jaworski 17-38-2—190
 Receiving: Minnesota—Brown 4-25, Senser 4-25, White 2-52, Young 6-57, Rashad 1-23, Bruer 1-8, Paschal 1-19; Philadelphia—Kreple 2-27, Montgomery 2-26, Carmichael 7-84, Fitzkee 2-19, Harris 2-13, Campfield 2-21

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF GAME

At Cleveland, OH, January 4, 1981

Oakland	0	7	0	7-14
Cleveland	0	6	6	0-12

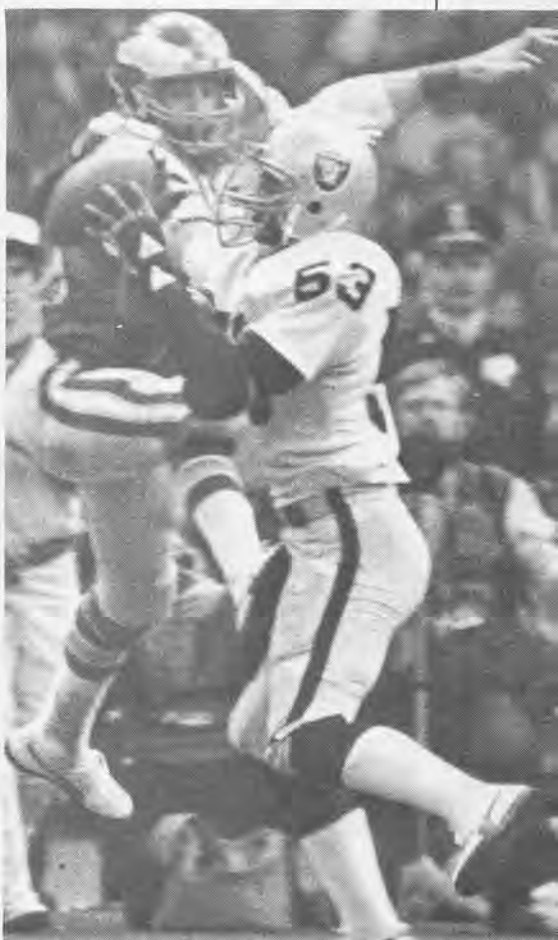
SCORING

Cleveland: Bolton 42-yard interception return (PAT failed)
 Oakland: van Eeghen 1-yard run (Bahr PAT)
 Cleveland: Cockroft 30-yard field goal
 Cleveland: Cockroft 29-yard field goal
 Oakland: van Eeghen 1-yard run (Bahr PAT)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Oakland	Cleveland
First downs	12	17
Rushes-yards	38-76	27-85
Passing yards	132	169
Return yards	4	123
Passes	14-30-2	13-40-3
Punts	9-38	6-40
Fumbles-lost	2-1	6-1
Penalties-yards	5-39	2-10
Attendance: 77,655		

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INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Oakland—van Eeghen 20-45, King 12-23, Plunkett 4-8, Whittington 1-1, Jensen 1-minus 1; Cleveland—Hill 2-23, M. Pruitt 13-48, Sipe 6-13, Miller 1-1, G. Pruitt 4-11, McDonald 1-minus 11
 Passing: Oakland—Plunkett 14-30-2—149; Cleveland—Sipe 13-40-3—183
 Receiving: Oakland—Chester 3-64, King 4-14, van Eeghen 3-23, Chandler 1-15, Branch 2-23, Whittington 1-10; Cleveland—Hill 2-4, Rucker 2-38, Newsome 4-51, G. Pruitt 3-54, Logan 2-36

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

At San Diego, CA, January 11, 1981
 Oakland 21 7 3 3—34
 San Diego 7 7 10 3—27

SCORING

Oakland: Chester 65-yard pass from Plunkett (Bahr PAT)
 San Diego: Joiner 48-yard pass from Fouts (Benirschke PAT)
 Oakland: Plunkett 5-yard run (Bahr PAT)
 Oakland: King 21-yard pass from Plunkett (Bahr PAT)
 Oakland: van Eeghen 3-yard run (Bahr PAT)
 San Diego: Joiner 8-yard pass from Fouts (Benirschke PAT)
 San Diego: Benirschke 26-yard field goal
 San Diego: Muncie 6-yard run (Benirschke PAT)
 Oakland: Bahr 27-yard field goal
 Oakland: Bahr 33-yard field goal
 San Diego: Benirschke 27-yard field goal

TEAM STATISTICS

	Oakland	San Diego
First downs	21	26
Rushes-yards	42-138	23-83
Passing yards	224	351
Return yards	61	41
Passes	14-18-0	23-46-2
Punts	4-56	2-41
Fumbles-lost	0-0	5-1
Penalties-yards	7-54	6-45
Attendance: 52,428		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Oakland—van Eeghen 20-85, King 11-35, Plunkett 4-6, Whittington 5-5, Jensen 2-7; San Diego—Muncie 9-34, Smith 1-minus 1, Thomas 12-48, Fouts 1-2
 Passing: Oakland—Plunkett 14-18-0—261; San Diego—Fouts 22-45-2—336, Winslow 1-1-0—28
 Receiving: Oakland—Chester 5-102, Branch 3-78, Chandler 2-27, King 2-43, Whittington 2-11; San Diego—Smith 3-76, Jefferson 4-71, Joiner 6-130, Muncie 2-5, Thomas 5-40, Winslow 3-42

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

At Philadelphia, PA, January 11, 1981
 Dallas 0 7 0 0—7
 Philadelphia 7 0 10 3—20

SCORING

Philadelphia: Montgomery 42-yard run (Franklin PAT)
 Dallas: Dorsett 3-yard run (Septien PAT)
 Philadelphia: Franklin 26-yard field goal
 Philadelphia: Harris 9-yard run (Franklin PAT)
 Philadelphia: Franklin 20-yard field goal

TEAM STATISTICS

	Dallas	Philadelphia
First downs	11	19
Rushes-yards	22-86	40-263
Passing yards	116	77
Return yards	4	74
Passes	12-32-1	9-29-2
Punts	7-34	4-34
Fumbles-lost	5-3	4-0
Penalties-yards	5-40	5-45
Attendance: 70,696		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Dallas—Dorsett 13-41, Newhouse 7-44, Johnson 1-5, White 1-minus 4; Philadelphia—Montgomery 26-194, Jaworski 2-2, Harris 10-60, Campfield 1-3, Harrington 1-4
 Passing: Dallas—White 12-31-1—127, D. Pearson 0-1-0—0; Philadelphia—Jaworski 9-29-2—91
 Receiving: Dallas—Springs 2-minus 2, D. Pearson 2-15, Johnson 2-27, Dorsett 3-27, Saldi 1-28, P. Pearson 2-32; Philadelphia—Carmichael 1-7, Parker 4-31, Montgomery 1-14, Campfield 1-17, Krepfle 2-22

SUPER BOWL XV

At Louisiana Superdome, January 25, 1981
 Oakland 14 0 10 3—27
 Philadelphia 0 3 0 7—10

SCORING

Oakland: Branch 2-yard pass from Plunkett (Bahr PAT)
 Oakland: King 80-yard pass from Plunkett (Bahr PAT)
 Philadelphia: Franklin 30-yard field goal
 Oakland: Branch 29-yard pass from Plunkett (Bahr PAT)
 Oakland: Bahr 46-yard field goal
 Philadelphia: Krepfle 8-yard pass from Jaworski (Franklin PAT)
 Oakland: Bahr 35-yard field goal

TEAM STATISTICS

	Oakland	Philadelphia
First downs	17	19
Rushes-yards	34-117	26-69
Passing yards	260	291
Return yards	45	20
Passes	13-21-0	18-38-3
Punts	3-42	3-37
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-yards	5-37	6-57
Attendance: 75,500		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Oakland—van Eeghen 19-80, King 6-18; Plunkett 3-9, Whittington 3-minus 2, Jensen 3-12; Philadelphia—Montgomery 16-44, Harris 7-14, Harrington 1-4, Giammona 1-7, Jaworski 1-0
 Passing: Oakland—Plunkett 13-21-0—261; Philadelphia—Jaworski 18-38-3—291
 Receiving: Oakland—Branch 5-67, King 2-93, Chandler 4-77, Chester 2-24; Philadelphia—Krepfle 2-16, Montgomery 6-91, Harris 1-1, Spagnola 1-22, Carmichael 5-83, Smith 2-59, Parker 1-19

AFC-NFC PRO BOWL

Honolulu, HI, February 1, 1981
 American Conference 0 7 0 0—7
 National Conference 3 6 0 12—21

SCORING

NFC: Murray 31-yard field goal
 AFC: Morgan 9-yard pass from Sipe (Smith PAT)
 NFC: Murray 31-yard field goal
 NFC: Murray 34-yard field goal
 NFC: Jenkins 55-yard pass from Bartkowski (Murray PAT)
 NFC: Safety, AFC called for holding penalty in end zone

TEAM STATISTICS

	AFC	NFC
First downs	12	20
Rushes-yards	22-65	39-167
Passing yards	164	190
Return yards	93	43
Passes	14-30-2	15-37-2
Punts	6-45	6-40
Fumbles-lost	2-2	3-1
Penalties-yards	9-74	10-69
Attendance: 50,360		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: AFC—Campbell 8-24, Pruitt 5-17, Cribbs 6-14; NFC—Anderson 10-70, Andrews 9-59, Payton 10-36, Sims 7-22
 Passing: AFC—Sipe 10-15-2—142, Fouts 4-15-0—53; NFC—Bartkowski 9-21-1—173, Jaworski 6-16-1—47
 Receiving: AFC—Jefferson 3-45, Butler 2-22, Pruitt 2-3, Cribbs 1-52; NFC—Jenkins 3-91, Andrews 3-17, Lofton 2-31

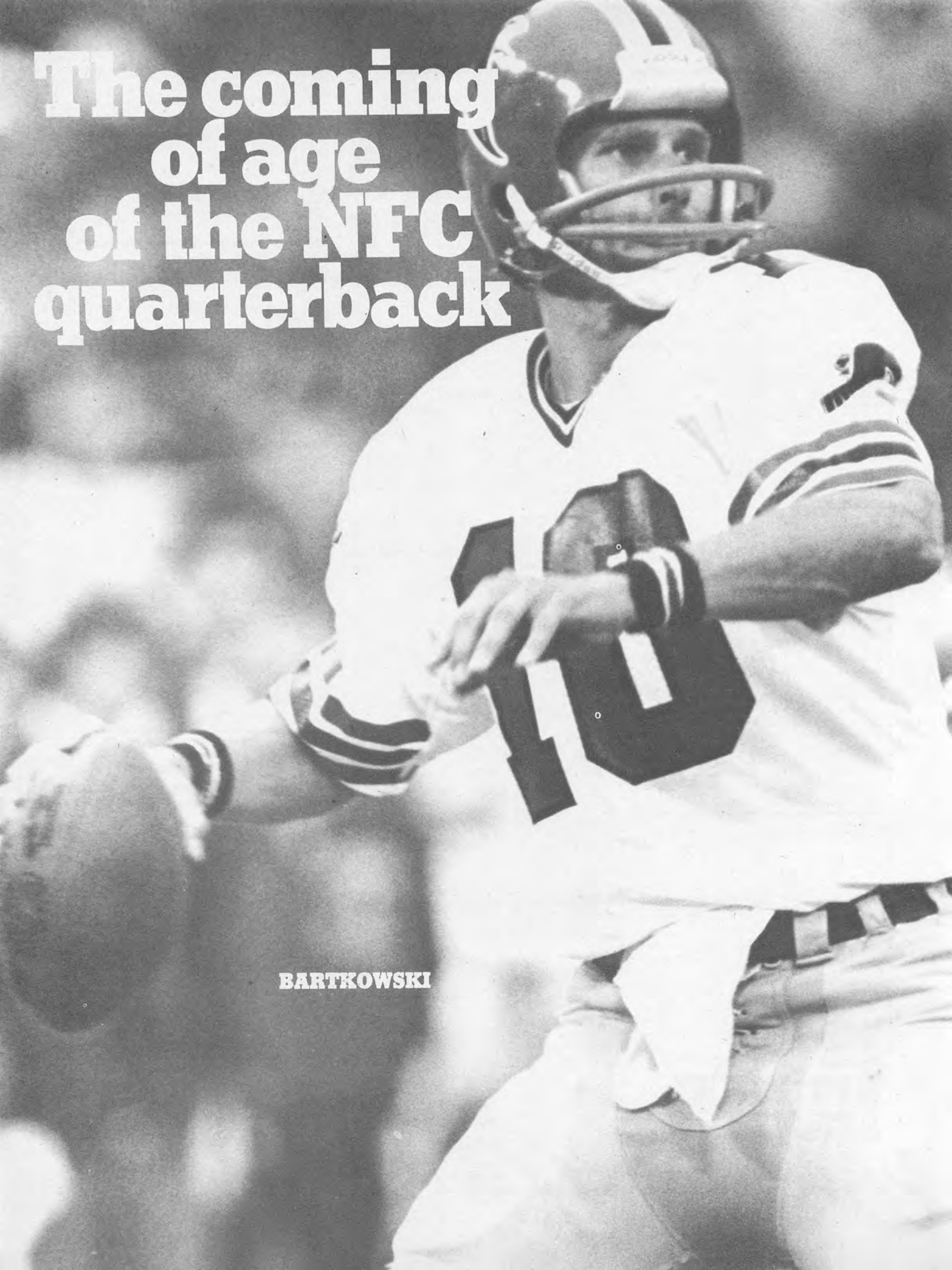
Cliff Branch makes his second touchdown catch in Super Bowl XV.



1980 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

The coming of age of the NFC quarterback

BARTKOWSKI



by **DON PIERSON**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

● Somewhere deep in football lore, it is inscribed: "Quarterbacks get too much credit when their teams win and too much blame when their teams lose." It is an ancient and respected notion, repeated enough times by enough coaches, sportswriters, and quarterbacks to rank near the top on everyone's list of favorite cliches. But quarterbacks often get credit because they have earned it. Likewise, many quarterbacks deserve blame on occasion. A few rare ones will even admit it. Surely this is reflected in the paychecks of quarterbacks and might be translated to mean: "Where there's the most money, there must be the most importance."

Face it. The quarterback is more than another building block in a team's foundation; he is the cornerstone. He is more than another link in the chain; he is the master link. He is not just another board member of the corporation; he is the chairman. If this were not so, the center could hike the ball directly to the halfback, the wide receivers would call the plays, and fans could boo the left guards.

There are two ways to build a football team. One is to start with the quarterback; the other is to end up with the quarterback. Some builders figure you can't do anything without first drafting a quarterback. Others refuse to let the quarterback suffer without blockers, so they start with defense or tackles or running backs. Sooner or later, it is time for the quarterback, the middle piece in the puzzle.

After Chicago general manager Jim Finks spent years drafting linemen and assembling a defense and blockers for Walter Payton, he was ready to lay final responsibility on the shoulders of the quarterback.

"We will go as far as our quarterback takes us," he said.

Last year, the quarterback flopped and so did the Bears. The quarterback, Mike Phipps, was smart enough to admit, "I'm hurting this team."

For years, good quarterbacks have been credited with the dominance of the American Football Conference. Bad quarterbacks have been blamed for the inferiority of the National Football Conference.

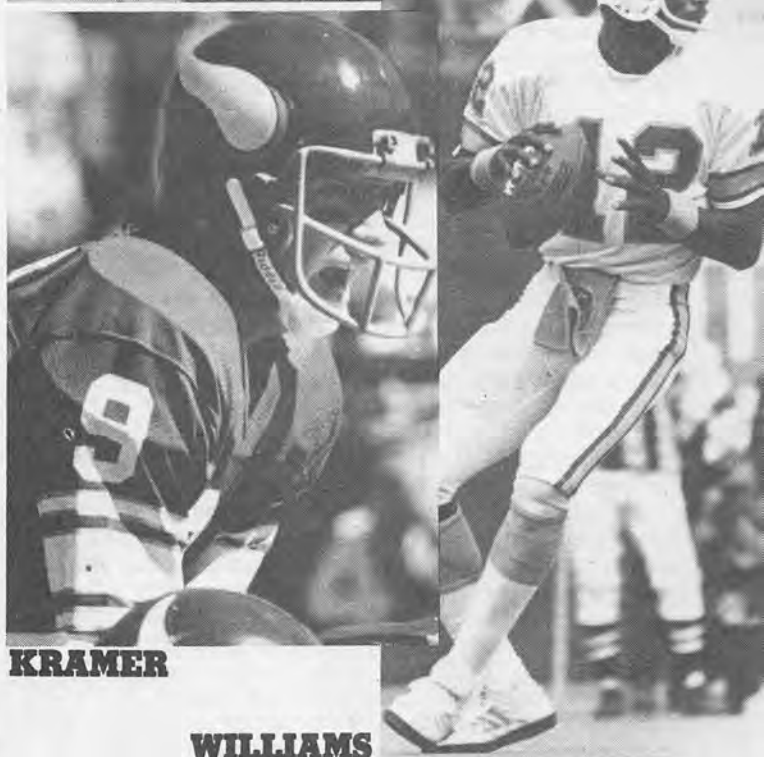
Jim Plunkett, discarded by the New England Patriots and San Francisco 49ers, found success when a good team let him play. Although he might never have surfaced without good players around him, was there any doubt about which good player was the most important in the Raiders' Super Bowl drive?

Ron Jaworski, discarded by the Los Angeles Rams, helped a poor Philadelphia Eagles' team become good when he got a chance. The Rams, having lost Vince Ferragamo to Canada, now undoubtedly wish they had listened to Jaws.

The moral of the story is this: to find the best teams, look for the best quarterbacks.

For a decade, AFC superiority was analyzed from every angle known to man and coach. From Hank Stram's "Offense of the Seventies" to the presence of wily Al Davis, from better water boys to better tight ends, experts have sought to explain whatever happened to dear old NFC. The most reasonable answer is usually standing behind the center, the quarterback. Bob Griese, Ken Stabler, and Bert Jones usually got more All-Pro votes than Fran Tarkenton. Terry Bradshaw usually beat out Roger Staubach. Ken Anderson, Joe Ferguson, Steve Grogan, and Jim Zorn always were cited as the bright, young phenoms who would keep the AFC on top.

Last year, if statistics aren't lying, the best quarterbacks were



WILLIAMS

NFC quarterback

The coming of age of the



in the NFC. Although the best teams remained in the AFC, the question is: if the good quarterbacks are here, can good teams be far behind? If AFC dominance continues, someone will have to come up with a new reason, such as "Bright Young Weak-Side Linebackers Key to AFC Success."

Cleveland's Brian Sipe was the league's No. 1 passer last year. After that, seven NFC quarterbacks placed in the top ten. Jaworski, Los Angeles's Ferragamo, Atlanta's Steve Bartkowski, San Francisco's Joe Montana, Detroit's Gary Danielson, New Orleans's Archie Manning, and Dallas's Danny White all ranked higher than old AFC standbys Bradshaw, Jones, Griese, Anderson, Ferguson, Stabler, Plunkett, Grogan, and Zorn. Besides Sipe, the only AFC quarterbacks in the top ten were San Diego's Dan Fouts and Denver's Craig Morton.

What does this mean? For one thing, maybe the NFC will win a Super Bowl some day. For sure, those quarterbacks are making the NFC a less embarrassing place to live and a tougher place for AFC teams to visit.

As usual, the AFC clobbered the NFC 33 games to 19 last year. But a breakdown of that record shows that the weak NFC Central was primarily responsible for the lopsided edge. The former Black and Blue division was a woeful 3-15 against AFC clubs. Throw the Central out and the score was 18-16, AFC, closer to parity. White and Jaworski were 3-1 apiece against the AFC. Bartkowski, Ferragamo, and Montana broke even.

Another statistic in favor of the NFC quarterbacks is age. The seven NFC throwers in the top ten average 33.3. For a fairer comparison, the top seven AFC passers average 31.1. Overall, NFC starting quarterbacks average 29 years of age; AFC quarterbacks average 30.2. Perhaps the awful NFC Central record against the AFC can be explained by the fact that the NFC Central started three 26-year-old quarterbacks.

The first appearances of Los Angeles and Philadelphia in Super Bowls can be directly traced to the passing of Ferragamo and Jaworski. Jaworski's passer rating has improved an average of ten points a year since he arrived in Philadelphia in 1977. Last season he threw more than twice as many touchdown passes (27) as interceptions (12). Only one other quarterback, Sipe, accomplished that. The Eagles say they wouldn't trade the 30-year-old Jaworski for any other quarterback in the league. That is high praise for a man who threw only one touchdown pass and eight interceptions in three years in Los Angeles.

"You can only learn so much by going to practice and studying film. You have to get out on the field and play, otherwise you'll rot," said Jaworski.

Dick Vermeil started slowly with Jaworski while he built a team around him.

"To have a winning team, I've always felt that above all you've got to keep the pressure off the quarterback until he's been there long enough to handle it," said Vermeil.

In 1979, Vermeil hired Sid Gillman to help coach the quarterbacks. Vince Lombardi once said there are no great quarterbacks, only great coaches. Gillman might be the greatest coach of quarterbacking and passing the sport has known. His presence marked the final touches on Jaworski and represents another interesting phenomenon in the development of many NFC quarterbacks: they have benefited from the coaching of men who, coincidentally or not, have AFC backgrounds.

Gillman's influence on Jaworski is best explained by Jaworski: "Sid is as much responsible as anyone. We changed a lot of our attack when he came. The first year I was here, we basically threw to an area. When Sid came, we widened everyone out to take advantage of the whole field. On every play, we have as much discipline as anyone in football. You will see every receiver going all out on every play. On some teams, the secondary receivers will loaf."

After Gillman joined the Eagles and tinkered with the playbook, open-heart surgery forced him to miss training camp.

"He had put certain principles into our offense, but then Dick and our receiver coach tried to coach them during training camp," said Jaworski. "We had an idea of what Sid wanted, but it lost something without the master there."

Defenders of the National Conference like to explain AFC superiority by the switch of Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Baltimore to the AFC. What they forgot is that Pittsburgh's Chuck Noll first coached under Gillman and incorporated the AFC passing philosophy into the Steelers from the start of his tenure. Before he came, the NFC would have gladly sent the Steelers to the AFC.

One of Noll's assistants from 1970-76 was Lionel Taylor, former great AFC receiver who was the first pro to catch 100 passes in a season. Taylor went to the Rams in 1977 as receiver coach. Last year, LA coach Ray Malavasi promoted him to offensive coordinator. Was Ferragamo's outstanding year entirely coincidental?

continued

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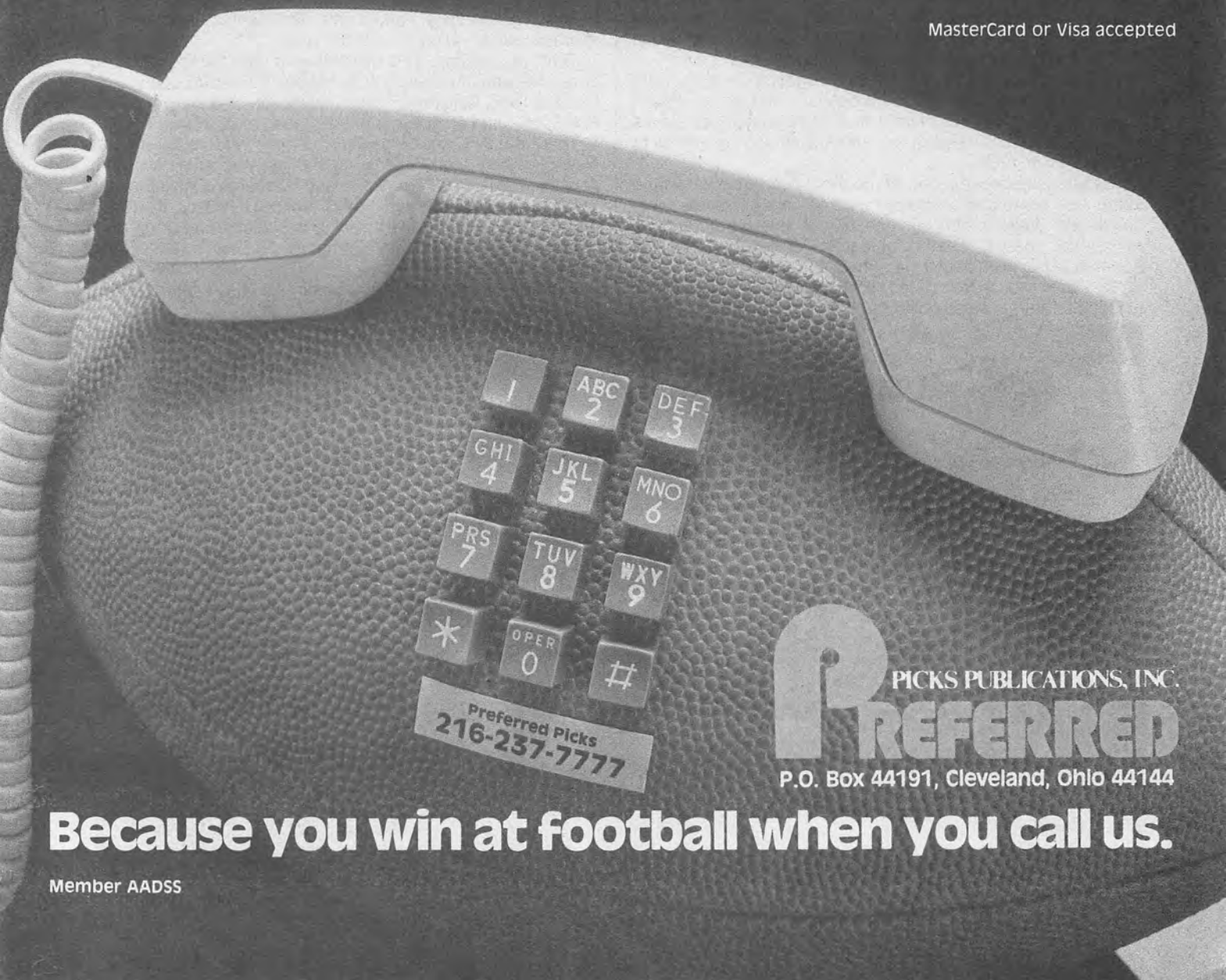
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NFC quarterback

The coming of age of the

Losing Ferragamo to the Montreal Alouettes is something the Rams aren't expected to overcome as quickly as they think.

"We won with Pat Haden before and we'll win again," said Malavasi.

Ferragamo was the quarterback, however, when the Rams made it to their only Super Bowl.

In Atlanta, Steve Bartkowski finally has justified the Falcons' faith in drafting him No. 1 in 1975. Bartkowski is an example of the quarterback-now-team-later philosophy. First, the Falcons took Bartkowski, then wondered why he couldn't block all those pass rushers. Fortunately, he was able to survive until the runners and linemen came to his rescue in subsequent drafts.

"I really thought I could walk in here and turn this thing around overnight," Bartkowski said.

It took the stabilizing influence of general manager Eddie LeBaron and coach Leeman Bennett, who arrived in 1977, to extract Bartkowski's potential. And don't forget quarterback coach Dick Wood. One of the many quiet, unsung assistants who work with players every day, pointing out the subtle differences between mediocrity and greatness, Wood joined the Falcons in 1978. It was the same year the team made it to the playoffs for the first time. Wood's background? After two years as an understudy to Johnny Unitas from 1960-62, Wood spent the next four years with five AFC teams before entering the coaching business.

In Minnesota, Tommy Kramer entered a situation opposite that of Bartkowski's. His team was ready-made, having won five straight Central division titles before he was drafted. It won a sixth while he was a rookie understudy to Fran Tarkenton. When Kramer took over, the Vikings slipped, but they didn't fall.

In 1979, the age of Kramer's supporting cast combined with Kramer's youth contributed to Minnesota's first losing season since 1967. But coach Bud Grant demonstrated that he believes in on-the-job rebuilding programs and Kramer led the Vikings to another title in 1980.

Joe Montana became San Francisco's quarterback full time in the 12th game and completed 64.5 percent of his passes in coach Bill Walsh's offense, one that is designed for high-percentage passing. It has been that way since he tutored Ken Anderson at Cincinnati and Dan Fouts at San Diego.

Gary Danielson was accused of being a one-year quarterback at Detroit after his outstanding 1978 season was followed by a

1979 injury. But he returned in 1980 and improved his passer rating by nine points. His total of 11 interceptions was a league low among starting quarterbacks. Coach Monte Clark and offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker arrived together in 1978. Clark's reputation was built in Miami, where he assembled the Dolphins' offensive lines. Schnelker, a former tight end, started coaching in Los Angeles and later under Vince Lombardi in Green Bay before moving to the AFC in 1972.

The statistics of Dallas's White were compiled under unique circumstances. Not only was White facing regular defenses for the first time, he was facing regular reminders that he had to fill the shoes of Roger Staubach. Under that kind of pressure, White's season may have been the most remarkable of all his colleagues. Of course, he had a team around him, a team that has been accused of wearing AFC clothing for years. In fact, Cowboys' offensive coordinator Dan Reeves was hired by the Denver Broncos as head coach. It is not often that the AFC hires an NFC coach.

The only new coaches in the NFC this year happen to have AFC roots. Bum Phillips, fired in Houston for having an unimaginative offense, was hired by New Orleans. Joe Gibbs, who directed the aerial circuses in San Diego, took over in Washington. Perhaps Saints' quarterback Archie Manning and Redskins' quarterback Joe Theismann, two of the oldest quarterbacks in the NFC, will find new life under new coaches.

The five youngest starting quarterbacks in the NFC—Montana, Kramer, Tampa Bay's Doug Williams, Chicago's Vince Evans, and the New York Giants' Phil Simms—compiled an average passer rating of 70.9 last year.

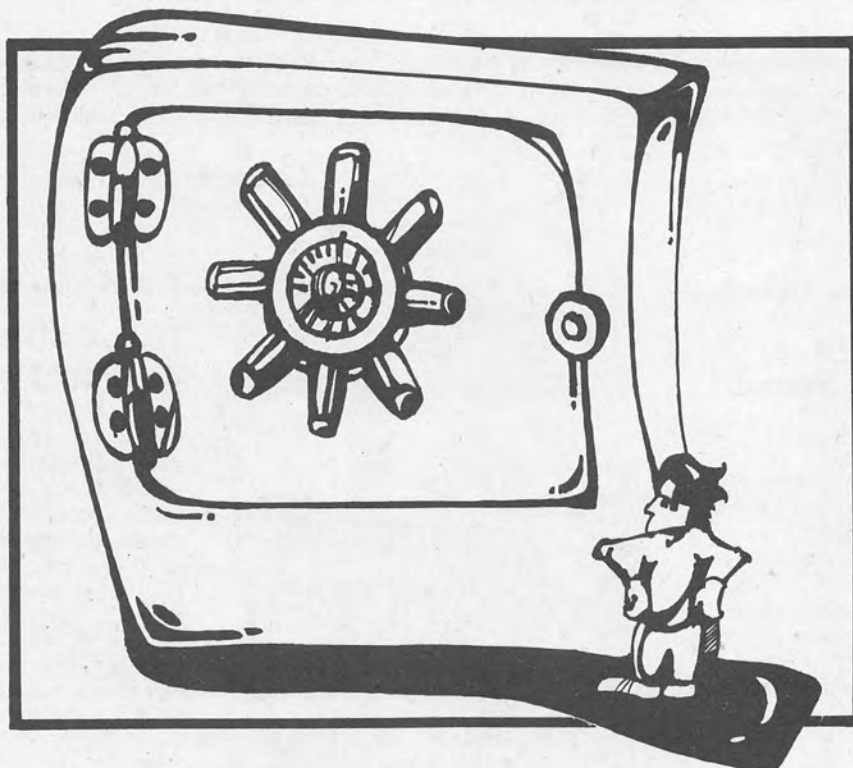
The five youngest AFC quarterbacks with the most playing time—Kansas City's Steve Fuller, Miami's David Woodley, Jets' Richard Todd, Cincinnati's Jack Thompson, and Denver's Matt Robinson—had an average passer rating of 60.46.

There are AFC quarterbacks who have yet to play, such as New England's Matt Cavanaugh and last year's first two draft choices: Oakland's Marc Wilson and Pittsburgh's Mark Malone. Will they develop and keep the AFC on top? If they do, it will be a signal for the NFC to start playing this year's first three draft choices—Green Bay's Rich Campbell, St. Louis's Neil Lomax, and Washington's Tom Flick.

If quarterbacks deserve the credit, the NFC's future seems brighter than its past.



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Number of punts and average

Number of penalties and yards penalized

Game outlook: analysis of each team's strengths and weaknesses, and prediction of the completion and outcome of game

MATCHUPS—ROSTER—STATISTICS—PAST RESULTS—ANALYSIS

COLLEGE MATCHUPS

Head Miller DENVER

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NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

by **DON PIERSON**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

● First of all, the National Football Conference is inferior to the American Football Conference according to the only statistic that counts—won-lost record. The NFC has been inferior since Vince Lombardi left Green Bay and it remains inferior to this day.

With that established, let us proceed to the next theory: rumblings among the NFC hierarchy indicate the possibility of change. The 1980's already are different from the 1970's in the NFC. During the '70's, there were only three NFC teams good enough to boast that they played the same sport as the Pittsburgh Steelers, Miami Dolphins, or Oakland Raiders. Those teams were the Dallas Cowboys, Minnesota Vikings, and Los Angeles Rams. Among them, they played in all but one of the Super Bowls of the '70's. They won 22 of 30 division titles. Every year but one, 1972, at least two of them won their divisions. In 1972, when San Francisco, Washington, and Green Bay won their divisions, there was talk of new eras, unraveling dynasties, and a renewal of overall NFC strength. The following year, L.A., Dallas, and Minnesota all returned to the top.

Will history repeat itself in 1981? Were Philadelphia and Atlanta for real? Or were they mere flashes in the same old tarnished NFC pan? Two years ago, there was reason to expect change in the Central Division, when Tampa Bay and Chicago finished ahead of Minnesota. A year later, the Vikings were back on top. Will Dallas sit still for the Eagles? Can the Rams regain their title from the Falcons?

There is evidence to suggest more genuine balance in the NFC. The 1979 and 1980 races were closer than ever in each division. In 1980, the NFC had the only three 12-game winners in football: Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Dallas.

The Eagles and Falcons have the top two returning quarterbacks in the conference in Ron Jaworski and Steve Bartkowski. Both teams have quality young players at other key positions. They have successful coaches and stable front offices. Their recent drafts have been instantly productive. In short, they have followed the blueprints displayed for years by the Rams, Cowboys, and Vikings.

This is not a requiem for the Big Three. For those who ignore history, it would be easy to point at the Rams and kiss them off. After all, they lost their quarterback, Vince Ferragamo, to the Canadian Football League. Surely the loss of the man who helped them get to the 1980 Super Bowl will be a devastating blow. Surely they will not soon recover.

But who lost Roger Staubach only last year? The Cowboys gave the reins to untested Danny White and barely skipped a beat.

Who lost Fran Tarkenton two years ago? The Vikings needed only one season to regroup around Tommy Kramer and regain their title.

The Big Three are still quite big, thank you.

One thing appears truer than ever in the NFC. The Big Three cannot assume they will end up in their perennial lofty places. They must work for their position more now.

The quarterbacks are the key. Philadelphia's Jaworski, L.A.'s Ferragamo, and Atlanta's Bartkowski finished 1-2-3 in NFC passing last year with Bartkowski elected the Pro Bowl starter. The quality didn't stop there. San Francisco's Joe Montana, Detroit's Gary Danielson, and New Orleans's Archie Manning all finished ahead of Dallas's White and Minnesota's Kramer in passer rankings.

In running, the top four were Chicago's Walter Payton, St. Louis's Ottis Anderson, Atlanta's William Andrews, and Detroit's Billy Sims. In pass receiving, San Francisco's Earl Cooper and Dwight Clark were 1-2, followed by Green Bay's James Lofton.

Washington, with cornerbacks Lemar Parrish and Joe Lavender, led the conference in interceptions. Dallas led the league in scoring. Philadelphia and Detroit ranked second and third in total defense. Los Angeles and Atlanta ranked second and third in total offense. Even lowly New Orleans, with its 1-15 record, finished fourth in the league in passing. Another fifth-place team, Green Bay, was eighth in league passing.

Clearly, there is talent and balance in the NFC as rarely before. Critics would suggest it is about time. Surely the downtrodden conference has had its share of the high draft choices in recent years. The interconference won-lost record remains dismal for the NFC. Last year, the AFC won 33 interconference games to 19 for the NFC. But there are other statistics that reflect a hint of change.

The NFC is supposed to be the conservative conference, ruled by stodgy owners and unimaginative coaches. Their philosophy on and off the field remains end zones away from the AFC's. The NFC is known as the conference of runners. After Houston's Earl Campbell, the top runners last season were Payton, Anderson, Andrews, Sims, and Dallas's Tony Dorsett. And the No. 1 rushing team in football was Los Angeles, which did not place a single runner among the top ten. Six of the top ten rushing teams in football were from the NFC, which rushed for more yards and more touchdowns than the AFC.

It figures, you say. So what? The Oilers were scorned by their own owner for making Earl Campbell grind out all those yards. Dull, dull, dull. When Campbell gained a personal record



PREDICTIONS

EAST

1. Philadelphia Eagles
2. Dallas Cowboys
3. Washington Redskins
4. New York Giants
5. St. Louis Cardinals

WEST

1. Atlanta Falcons
2. Los Angeles Rams
3. San Francisco 49ers
4. New Orleans Saints

CENTRAL

1. Minnesota Vikings
2. Detroit Lions
3. Chicago Bears
4. Green Bay Packers
5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

STREET & SMITH'S 1981 ALL-NFC TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback—Ron Jaworski, *Philadelphia*
Running Back—Walter Payton, *Chicago*
Running Back—Billy Sims, *Detroit*
Wide Receiver—James Lofton, *Green Bay*
Wide Receiver—Ahmad Rashad, *Minnesota*
Tight End—Junior Miller, *Atlanta*
Tackle—Pat Donovan, *Dallas*
Tackle—Mike Kenn, *Atlanta*
Guard—Kent Hill, *Los Angeles*
Guard—Randy Cross, *San Francisco*
Center—Dennis Swilley, *Minnesota*
Place-kicker—Eddie Murray, *Detroit*

DEFENSE

End—Dan Hampton, *Chicago*
End—Lee Roy Selmon, *Tampa Bay*
Tackle—Randy White, *Dallas*
Tackle—Carl Hairston, *Philadelphia*
Outside Linebacker—Jerry Robinson, *Philadelphia*
Outside Linebacker—Joel Williams, *Atlanta*
Middle Linebacker—Buddy Curry, *Atlanta*
Cornerback—Lemar Parrish, *Washington*
Cornerback—Herman Edwards, *Philadelphia*
Free Safety—Nolan Cromwell, *Los Angeles*
Strong Safety—Tom Hannon, *Minnesota*
Punter—Dave Jennings, *New York*

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206 yards against Chicago and the Oilers managed to squeeze out only a 10-6 victory, heads were scratched all over Houston. Coach Bum Phillips was fired for running such a boring offense and banished forever to the NFC, where he belonged. Serves him right, said the AFC aficionados.

But wait. There's more. Not only did the NFC dominate as usual in running statistics, it passed, too. More times for more completions for more yards for more touchdowns than the AFC. Seven of the top ten passing teams were from the NFC. Seven of the top ten passers were from the NFC, and they weren't all from the top seven passing teams. Minnesota, New Orleans, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Green

Jim Hart in St. Louis or Flick unseats Joe Theismann in Washington.

Defense wasn't ignored by any means in the NFC. Four linebackers were among the first nine players taken in the draft—all by the NFC. Lawrence Taylor should start right away for the New York Giants. E.J. Junior is the man St. Louis has been looking for to stabilize its defense. Hugh Green will fit in quickly at Tampa Bay and Mel Owens will find out there is always room for a No. 1 linebacker in Los Angeles.

The Giants, Cardinals, and Bucs all are 3-4 teams. The conversion of the 49ers and Saints to 3-4 lineups gives the NFC eight clubs that use principally 3-4 defenses. For trend-watchers, that is as many 3-4 clubs as reside in the superior AFC. Maybe the NFC is catching up all over.

The NFC also drafted its share of wide receivers in a good year for the position. Mark Nichols is expected to have immediate impact on the Detroit Lions' offense, much as Billy Sims had last year. The Minnesota Vikings, known for their receivers, nevertheless tabbed Mardye McDole with their opening pick in the second round. Dallas, also supposedly loaded, took Doug Donley in the second round. The Giants and Bears tried to beef up lowly passing attacks by adding Pacific 10 all-star receivers John Mistler and Ken Margerum, respectively.

Besides new players, the NFC has two new coaches who know something about the ways of the AFC. Phillips may be a bum in Houston, but the Saints welcome him. Who else could turn a 1-15 city optimistic so quickly? Washington hopes Joe Gibbs brings some of the Chargers' powerful offense with him. Both the Saints and Redskins appeared ready to make moves two years ago, only to falter last year. The impatience of their owners indicates a restlessness in the NFC that is unusual.

Other young NFC players will be watched closely this year to see whether they can match last year's splashes. San Francisco wide receiver Dwight Clark, a 10th-round draft choice in 1979, caught 82 passes and finally emerged from the large shadow cast by Clemson teammates Steve Fuller and Jerry Butler.

Washington's Art Monk was the best rookie receiver in the league last season and the Giants' second-year man, Earnest Gray, caught ten touchdown passes.

Detroit's Sims hardly looked like he was too old to run at his advanced rookie age of 25. Younger runners William Andrews and Lynn Cain of Atlanta, Ottis Anderson of St. Louis, Ted Brown of Minnesota, and Eddie Lee Ivey of Green Bay all gained more than 800 yards.

Atlanta rookie Junior Miller looks like the NFC's answer to AFC dominance at tight end, a vital position in any offense.

Rookie kicker Ed Murray of Detroit led the conference in scoring.

For every new face, an old one must leave. Washington bade farewell last season to Ken Houston, quite possibly the greatest strong safety in history. The Dallas Cowboys have lost the enduring skill and good humor of defensive lineman Larry Cole. The exit of Washington's Coy Bacon and Philadelphia's Claude Humphrey, who often elevated pass rushing to an art form, is imminent. Chicago's Alan Page, who revolutionized the position of defensive tackle, has announced this will be his final season before entering full-time law practice. St. Louis quarterback Jim Hart is nearing the

end of a remarkable career that began as a free agent. Hart needs only seven touchdown passes to reach the 200 mark, a level achieved by only nine passers. Dallas's Preston Pearson, the consummate utility back, soon will be embarking on a new career. So will Minnesota's perennial All-Pro tackle, Ron Yary.

It won't take much improvement for the NFC again to wage the closest division battles in history. Although the recent butt of jokes, the NFC Central had a closer top-to-bottom race than any other division in football last year. The five teams finished three-and-a-half games apart. This year, all five teams could finish anywhere from first to last and cause only slight ripples of surprise among prognosticators. The Vikings are favorites based solely on past performance. The Lions figure they let inexperience blow it for them last year. The Bears think they are ready for the front door after two wild-card playoff appearances in four years. The Bucs want to prove their 1979 title no fluke. The Packers have the tremendous advantage of the fifth-place schedule.

In the East, Philadelphia and Dallas again appear to be on the collision course that brought each a 12-4 record last season. Philadelphia won it under embarrassing circumstances when all it had to do was stay close to the Cowboys in a resounding defeat. Washington, St. Louis, and the Giants—who all slipped in 1980—think they have improved enough to make it uncomfortable for the front runners. Gibbs and his Redskins will get the first chance to prove it. All four of their September games are against East division foes. The Eagles have a chance to play catch-up, however. Six of their final eight games are within the division.

The Falcons and Rams again appear to be the class of the West with San Francisco and New Orleans each capable of spoiling things. The Saints could play that role in a hurry with games against Atlanta and Los Angeles in the first two weeks.

The NFC also will be looking for its first interconference edge against the AFC since 1971.

THE NFC WINNERS

EAST	CENTRAL	WEST
1970 Dallas	Minnesota	San Francisco
1971 Dallas	Minnesota	San Francisco
1972 Washington	Green Bay	San Francisco
1973 Dallas	Minnesota	Los Angeles
1974 St. Louis	Minnesota	Los Angeles
1975 St. Louis	Minnesota	Los Angeles
1976 Dallas	Minnesota	Los Angeles
1977 Dallas	Minnesota	Los Angeles
1978 Dallas	Minnesota	Los Angeles
1979 Dallas	Tampa Bay	Los Angeles
1980 Philadelphia	Minnesota	Atlanta

Bay, Atlanta, Tampa Bay, Dallas, Detroit, and Los Angeles all had either quarterbacks or total passing games ranked among the top ten.

In pass receiving, the NFC boasted six of the top ten players. And they came from five different teams: San Francisco, Green Bay, Minnesota, St. Louis, and New Orleans. The AFC was represented by only two teams: San Diego and Seattle.

What all these facts indicate is simply this: the NFC, contrary to public belief and its interconference record, is discovering offense—passing offense as well as rushing offense.

Of the 14 NFC teams, 12 ranked in the league's top ten in either passing or rushing. Only seven AFC teams enjoyed the same high rankings. All NFC clubs except the New York Giants and Washington Redskins showed up among the top ten in some sort of offensive category. Only one team in football was able to balance rushing and passing well enough to finish among the top ten in both categories: the Atlanta Falcons. Three other teams came close: Los Angeles, Dallas, and New England.

Achieving offensive balance has been the goal of every club since the Pittsburgh Steelers alternately ran then passed their way to Super Bowl victories. The NFC seems to be making progress toward that goal.

Even the Chicago Bears, dead last in the league in passing last year, ran out and hired a former AFC coach, Ted Marchibroda, to coordinate their offense. Their leading receiver, James Scott, couldn't wait for change and took his considerable skills to Canada, where he hopes Ferragamo will make him a star.

Although the exit of these two players doesn't help the NFC's offensive image, the draft may do wonders for it. The 1980 Heisman Trophy winner, halfback George Rogers of South Carolina, will be playing for the New Orleans Saints. The top three college quarterbacks—Rich Campbell of Cal, Neil Lomax of Portland State, and Tom Flick of Washington—all were picked by NFC clubs. Campbell may be playing for Green Bay before Lomax replaces



Miller

NF'Ceast

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Awright, Dick Vermeil. You win, the Eagles win, the skeptics lose. Who refuses to believe now? The Eagles made it to the Super Bowl.

It is wise to listen to Vermeil. He had been saying since 1976 that his team was getting better. Nobody really could see why. He didn't have many draft choices, nor many players who were suddenly going to decide they could beat the Dallas Cowboys or the Washington Redskins or even the St. Louis Cardinals. Why should they? They never had before.

But Vermeil worked at it. That's another thing. How are these guys ever going to survive Vermeil's practices? They're long. They are hard, man. Why, some of them are even exhausting. This team will never last. It will peak in August. Wait until October. November? December they die. Would you believe January? O.K., so they didn't quite make it to February.

These Eagles are a serious team. They are no longer flirting with success; they are measuring their fingers for the Big Ring. The Eagles are good. They are solid. They may have picked up two more starters in the draft: defensive end Leonard Mitchell of Houston and guard Dean Miraldi of Utah.

"They made giant strides last year because they gained the confidence of knowing they can go to the Super Bowl. They have to be the favorites," says Dallas coach Tom Landry.

So what about it, Dick Vermeil? How are you going to change your routine during this Super Bowl week? Surely you'll let the troops out of their rooms in Pontiac, Mich., won't you? It may have been wise to keep them off Bourbon Street last time, but they can't get into trouble in Pontiac. For one thing, it won't be warm enough to get into trouble.

The year after, the Eagles should be old pros in Pasadena for Super Bowl XVII, right Dick?

It is wise to listen to Vermeil: "We may not win as many games this year. We may not go to the Super Bowl, but I do think we'll be a better football team."

There he goes again, spoiling the fun. Why allow reality to creep into the picture? The Eagles are the Cinderella team. They should be swaggering around, yelling told-you-sos and vowing to atone for their loss to Oakland.

Listen to Vermeil: "I can see us not going to the Super Bowl, but I just can't see us going backwards. There is no guarantee that we'll be back next year. Dallas, Atlanta, or Los Angeles could just as well have made it last year. We were fortunate to be the ones who made it."

Why does that guy always have to be right?

Vermeil remembers well that the Eagles were losing their final game of the regular season, 35-10, to the Dallas Cowboys with ten minutes left. That 25-point margin would have been enough to give the Cowboys the East division title and leave the Eagles with a wild-card game. A 17-point Eagles' rally allowed them to drink champagne in the wake of a 35-27 loss.

That is how close these things are getting. A team can lose and win on the same day without playing a double-header. Parity is no party, you know. You can't count on anything. You might find out, as the Cowboys did, that even if you win, you lose. The Eagles do know, however, they are a pretty darn good team. That's part of the struggle.

"I've always believed that if you are a champion, you have a tendency to play like one," says Vermeil. "We'll have the advantage of the experience we gained in winning the conference championship and having gone to the Super Bowl. All of those things are part of maturing into a mental frame of mind that will allow you to take a little more advantage of your physical ability."

And the Eagles do have physical ability. Above everything else, that was proven last year when halfback Wilbert Montgomery got hurt. There had been a theory for some time that the Eagles were doing it with mirrors. Vermeil didn't have his first four draft choices in 1976 or in 1977. He didn't have his first two in 1978. The Eagles were improving from a 4-10 record to 5-9 to 9-7 during this time, but there was a feeling it was all being done on a giant wave of emotion and locker-room speeches.

The old college try is fine, but effort can only carry a pro team so far, the critics claimed. Sooner or later, a team needs an infusion of talent. Hard work and old-fashioned discipline can turn a bad team into a .500 team, but good players are all that will put it over the top.

Wilbert Montgomery seemed to be the Eagles' only great player. Surely his statistics

proved he was the best. First 1,200 yards, then 1,500 yards. This was the new Walter Payton. Wait until he gets hurt. Bye-bye Eagles. Montgomery missed four full games last year and large parts of two others. The Eagles won all six. Talk about gaining confidence.

The ability started with the quarterback, Ron Jaworski, who improved for the fourth straight year to the point where he was the top-rated passer in the NFC and second in the league to Cleveland's Brian Sipe. Jaworski can hardly get any better. His ratio of touchdown passes to interceptions, one of the most vital for a quarterback, was 27-12, again second only to Sipe. His passer rating of 90.9 is about as high as it can go during any one year. For a career, the highest rating belongs to Otto Graham at 86.8. Jaworski's improvement can be demonstrated by the passer rating statistic, which combines percentage of touchdown passes, completions, interceptions, and average yards gained per attempt. Since coming to Philadelphia, Jaworski has improved his rating from 60.3 to 68 to 76.8 to 90.9.

"I don't think Ron is going to continue to jump like that but I expect him to stay right up there in the top group," says Vermeil. "You can see that he's maturing into one of the top NFL quarterbacks. He didn't have an outstanding playoff series, but I think that was due more to maturity than to ability. His ability was there but you have to mature to handle those pressure situations."

It will be interesting to see what Jaworski does without the daily tutoring of passing master Sid Gillman, who retired after two years with the Eagles. Jaworski freely credits Gillman



Running back Wilbert Montgomery, wide receiver Harold Carmichael, and coach Dick Vermeil of the Eagles



1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Franklin, 96 points on 16 field goals and 48

PAT's T4th

RUSHING—Montgomery, 193 carries for 778 yards, 4.0

avg., 8 TD's 10th

PASSING—Jaworski, 257 of 451 attempts for 3,529 yards,

27 TD's 1st

RECEIVING—Montgomery, 50 receptions for 407 yards, 8.1

avg., 2 TD's 22nd

INTERCEPTIONS—Wilson, 6 for 79 yards, 13.2 avg. 5th

PUNTING—Runager, 75 punts, 39.3 avg., longest 58

yards 10th

PUNT RETURNS—Sciarra, 36 for 330 yards, 9.2 avg. 9th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Campfield, 26 for 540 yards, 20.8

avg. 12th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	6 At Houston (N)
	15 PITTSBURGH (N)
	23 New Orleans (at Syracuse)
	29 NY Jets (N at East Rutherford)

1981 SCHEDULE

September	6 At NY Giants	31-16
	13 NEW ENGLAND	—
	17 At Buffalo (N)	—
	27 WASHINGTON	24-14
October	5 ATLANTA (N)	17-20
	11 At New Orleans	34-21
	18 At Minnesota	42-7
	25 TAMPA BAY	—
November	1 DALLAS	17-10
	8 At St. Louis	14-24
	15 BALTIMORE	—
	22 NY GIANTS	35-3
	30 At Miami (N)	—
December	6 At Washington	24-0
	13 At Dallas	27-35
	20 ST. LOUIS	17-3

1980 SCORES



with the changes in the Eagles' passing style and philosophy that turned them into the No. 1 passing offense in the NFC. Although Vermeil is his own offensive coordinator, it was Gillman on the practice field with Jaworski, Gillman in the film room, and Gillman on the sideline phones to Jaworski during games. Typically, Gillman took as little of the credit as he could, saying he just followed Vermeil around and watched Jaworski throw the ball into the seams "better than anyone in football." But if the Eagle offense sputters, blame Gillman for leaving.

That is not likely to happen with Vermeil around, of course. He doesn't believe a team can be overcoached. Last year, before the Eagles' first game against Dallas, Vermeil noticed that former Baltimore head coach Ted Marchibroda was sitting home doing nothing, so he invited him up the road for two weeks to dissect Dallas film. This year, Marchibroda is employed by the Chicago Bears, but Vermeil has hired Ed Hughes to stay by Jaworski's side.

Gillman, who always raves about his players, saying all they ever need is coaching, talked up Jaworski's backup, Joe Pisarcik, last year. When Pisarcik got into the Chicago game after Jaworski was knocked out, the veteran proved Gillman right by leading the Eagles on a winning field-goal drive.

The Eagles failed to get the wide receiver they were looking for in the draft and therefore will rely on old favorites Harold Carmichael and Charlie Smith. They just hope they are not too old. The 6-8 Carmichael, 32, is coming off another Pro Bowl, but not his best year. He caught only seven passes in his last four regular-season games and had his consecutive-game catching streak broken at 127 in the finale.

"If he doesn't get it done, I don't know who is going to get it done," says Vermeil. "Harold is getting older and there is always concern when a wide receiver reaches that 32-year-old category. But Harold takes care of himself and I look for him to catch 60 balls this year."

Smith, 31, caught for more yardage than Carmichael and enjoyed his best season.

"He made more difficult catches than any receiver on our team," says Vermeil.

Vermeil likes second-year receiver Rodney Parker, a pleasant surprise as a free agent.

"Good things happen when he's in the ball game. I really believe that he could be a comer and a contender for a starting position," says the coach.

Scott Fitzkee, Wally Henry, and former Detroit Lion Luther Blue will battle it out for reserve roles. Fitzkee and Henry both had opportunities dashed last year by injury.

The Eagles have one of the best tight ends in football, certainly one of the best unsung tight ends, in Keith Krepfle. He blocks, gets open, and last year caught 30 balls. His four touchdown receptions were second only to Carmichael's nine. John Spagnola provides experienced and capable depth.

Back to Montgomery. He was hardly invisible last year. For one thing, he found time to catch 50 passes, two more than Carmichael and three more than Smith. Although he fell to 778 yards rushing, about half of his 1979 production, and the Eagles nevertheless won 12

Linebacker Bill Bergey (top), tight end Keith Krepfle (middle), and offensive guard Pete Perot (left) are Philadelphia stalwarts.

games, it is difficult to conceive of long-term success without him in the lineup as a big contributor. Vermeil has expressed some concern about Montgomery's conditioning following the injuries that kept the fifth-year pro subpar.

"I think those nagging injuries will be an alert for Wilbert to really spend more time in the discipline of the offseason program."

Montgomery caught a lot of his passes while split wide in a formation that employed only one running back. But to have a consistent running attack, the Eagles need a healthy Montgomery carrying the ball. Vermeil's nephew, Louis Giammona, was a capable backup for Montgomery and even Vermeil admitted, "He's a better football player than I thought he was." But at 5-9, 180, Giammona still doesn't appear to be the 16-game player every team needs. Billy Campfield is the third-down halfback with a penchant for the big play. Vermeil would like to

EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
63	Baker, Ron	G	6-4	250	27	4	Oklahoma State
66	Bergey, Bill	LB	6-3	245	36	13	Ark. St.
27	Blackmore, Rich	CB	5-10	174	25	3	Miss. St.
80	Blue, Luther	WR	5-11	180	26	5	Iowa State
97	Brown, Thomas	DE	6-4	240	24	2	Baylor
95	Bunting, John	LB	6-1	220	31	10	North Carolina
67	Burnham, Lem	DE	6-4	240	34	4	U.S. Int.
37	Campfield, Billy	RB	5-9	205	25	4	Kansas
17	Carmichael, H.	WR	6-8	225	32	11	Southern
59	Chesley, Al	LB	6-3	240	24	3	Pittsburgh
71	Clarke, Ken	MG	6-2	255	25	4	Syracuse
46	Edwards, Herman	CB	6-0	190	27	5	San Diego St.
81	Fitzkee, Scott	WR	6-0	187	24	3	Penn State
1	Franklin, Tony	K	5-8	182	25	3	Texas A&M
33	Giammona, Louie	HB-KR	5-9	180	28	5	Utah State
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-3	260	29	6	Maryland St.
35	Harrington, Perry	FB	5-11	210	23	2	Jackson St.
20	Harris, Leroy	FB	5-9	230	27	4	Ark. St.
68	Harrison, Dennis	DE	6-8	275	25	4	Vanderbilt
24	Henderson, Zac	S	6-1	190	26	2	Oklahoma
89	Henry, Wally	WR-PR	5-8	180	27	5	UCLA
16	Hertel, Rob	QB	6-2	198	26	3	Southern Cal.
	Hicks, Eddie	RB	6-2	210	26	3	East Carolina
30	Hogan, Mike	FB	6-2	215	27	6	Chattanooga
87	Humphrey, Claude	DE	6-5	258	37	14	Tenn. St.
7	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-2	196	30	7	Youngstown St.
65	Johnson, Charlie	MG	6-3	262	29	5	Colorado
73	Kennedy, Steve	T	6-4	262	26	2	Clemson
84	Krepfle, Keith	TE	6-3	230	29	7	Iowa State
55	LeMaster, Frank	LB	6-2	238	29	8	Kentucky
41	Logan, Randy	S	6-1	195	30	9	Michigan
31	Montgomery, W.	HB	5-10	195	27	5	Ab. Christian
50	Morris, Guy	C	6-4	255	30	9	TCU
83	Parker, Rodney	WR	6-1	190	28	2	Tenn. St.
69	Peoples, Woody	G	6-2	260	38	13	Grambling
62	Perot, Pete	G	6-2	261	24	3	N.W. Louisiana
52	Phillips, Ray	LB	6-4	230	27	5	Nebraska
9	Pisarcik, Joe	QB	6-4	220	29	5	New Mex. St.
	Powell, Steve	RB	5-11	186	25	3	NE Missouri
56	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	218	25	3	UCLA
4	Runager, Max	P	6-1	189	25	3	So. Carolina
21	Sciarra, John	S-PR	5-11	185	27	4	UCLA
76	Sisemore, Jerry	T	6-4	265	30	9	Texas
61	Slater, Mark	C	6-2	257	26	4	Minnesota
85	Smith, Charles	WR	6-1	185	31	8	Grambling
88	Spagnola, John	TE	6-4	240	24	3	Yale
39	Torrey, Bob	FB	6-3	232	24	2	Penn State
42	Wagner, Steve	S	6-2	208	27	6	Wisconsin
75	Walters, Stan	T	6-6	275	33	10	Syracuse
51	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	6-4	230	25	4	Georgia Tech
22	Wilson, Brenard	FS	6-0	175	26	3	Vanderbilt
43	Young, Roynell	CB	6-1	181	24	2	Alcorn St.

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Mitchell, Leonard	DE	6-6	275	23	Houston
2	Miraldi, Dean	OG	6-5	262	23	Utah
3	LaFleur, Greg	TE	6-4	236	23	LSU
4	Murray, Calvin	RB	5-11	182	23	Ohio St.
7	Duncan, Alan	K	5-11	175	23	Tennessee
7	Field, Doak	LB	6-2	225	23	Baylor
9	Commiskey, Chuck	OL	6-5	278	23	Mississippi
10	Oliver, Hubert	FB	5-10	210	24	Arizona
11	Davis, Gail	DL	6-3	265	22	Va. Union
12	Ellis, Ray	S	6-1	191	22	Ohio St.

see second-year runner Perry Harrington moved to fullback to challenge Leroy Harris, but Harris appeared to have finally improved toward the end of last season and made a big contribution to the Super Bowl drive.

In Jerry Sisemore and Stan Walters, the Eagles have two of the better offensive tackles in football. Vermeil thinks both are coming off their best seasons, even though neither made the Pro Bowl. Sisemore had the unusual distinction of starting all 16 games and not giving up one quarterback sack.

Guard is a concern to the Eagles, who used their second-round draft choice to take Utah's Miraldi. If 38-year-old Woody Peoples retires for good, Miraldi may be able to step right in. A third-year man, Pete Perot, plays the other side. Vermeil says he "has a lot of room for improvement, but he has all the ability." Veteran center Guy Morriss gets credit for cutting the Eagles' number of quarterback sacks in half. The depth all along the line is questionable, with youngsters Steve Kenney, Ron Baker, and Mark Slater the only reserves.

A stronger defense, second in the league to Buffalo, was the single best reason for the Eagles' 1980 success. The play of No. 1 draft choices Jerry Robinson at linebacker and Roynell Young at cornerback had instant impact. Now Vermeil has another No. 1 he didn't expect, defensive end Mitchell.

Once rated consistently among the top ten players in college regardless of position, Mitchell's stock slipped when he skipped some pre-draft workouts. But at 6-7, 270, Mitchell has all the ability to be a great pro and certainly was worth whatever gamble the Eagles took with the 27th pick in the first round. With Claude Humphrey aging, Mitchell may get expert tutoring and a chance to play at the same time, not that the Eagles are hurting for defensive

Tony Dorsett of the Cowboys



Defensive tackle John Dutton (#78), linebacker Mike Hegman (#58), cornerback Steve Wilson (#45), and end Ed "Too Tall" Jones (#72) of the Dallas Cowboys

linemen. Carl Hairston is one of the best ends in the business and nose tackle Charlie Johnson made the Pro Bowl again. Huge Dennis Harrison improves every year and Kenny Clarke and Lem Burnham are very good spot players.

Even before the draft, Vermeil said, "The defensive line is the biggest plus we have."

The linebacking isn't bad, either. Robinson is an All-Pro candidate in his third year, whether he plays outside or inside in the 3-4.

"I think he can make more spectacular plays inside because it would be harder to run away from him," said Vermeil.

That may be a message for inside backer Bill Bergey, age 36, who came off a knee injury.

"He was not the Bill Bergey of old," said Vermeil. "He played with mental concern for the knee but he still led the team in tackles, so you'd have to say he played well."

Inside backer Frank LeMaster and left-side starter John Bunting are coming off their best years. Vermeil says Reggie Wilkes will replace Robinson if Robinson moves out Bergey.

Young and Herman Edwards are very good cornerbacks and safeties Randy Logan, who made the Pro Bowl, and Brenard Wilson, who made six interceptions, give the Eagles a solid secondary. Richard Blackmore and John Sciarra give it depth.

Punter Max Runager is reliable, just the attribute Vermeil would like to see from kicker Tony Franklin, who booms his field goal attempts and squibs his kickoffs. The Eagles drafted Tennessee's Alan Duncan in the seventh round and if his kicks prove as straight as his lifestyle, Franklin could be looking for new employment.

DALLAS COWBOYS

You figure it out. The Cowboys scored more points than anyone else in football last year. They also gave up nearly 20 points a game and ranked 16th in the league in pass defense. Their problems in the defensive secondary are well-publicized, and seem to be a perennial concern.

"How we fit into the division race depends largely on our success in developing the defensive secondary," says coach Tom Landry.

So the draft comes along and the Cowboys made offensive players their first two choices. They ignored defensive backs until the sixth round. Maybe they know something they aren't talking about. Maybe they want to be ahead of Philadelphia 50-10 in the last ten minutes instead of just 35-10. Maybe they really do take the best athlete available.

In the first round, they made Missouri's Howard Richards a Cowboy, maybe so Philadelphia couldn't grab him with the next pick. Richards was a tackle who is projected as a guard. The Cowboys have All-Pro Herb Scott at one guard and should-be-All-Pro Tom Rafferty at the other. If they leave Richards at tackle, he has to beat out Pro Bowler Pat Donovan or underrated Jim Cooper. Now Philadelphia is a team that needs guards.

In the second round, the Cowboys picked Ohio State wide receiver Doug Donley. The idea appeared to make it easier to unload unhappy reserve Butch Johnson. Then they signed Johnson. Bet that made Donley's day, knowing now he has to sit behind Drew Pearson, Tony Hill, and Johnson.

What the heck? If the Cowboys hadn't picked Donley, the Eagles might have.

It is not wise to second-guess the Cowboys' draft. Don't second-guess anything they do. This is the team that was left by Roger Staubach last year and left for dead by all of Roger Staubach's fans.

The Cowboys find a way. They found Danny White years ago and ignored the doubters.

"We felt very confident that Danny White could replace Roger sufficiently enough to keep our offense strong," said Landry. "We didn't expect the tremendous success we had, especially early in the year. I thought Danny White's spectacular start was one of the most significant things that happened to us in 1980."

I feel that 1981 is going to be a tremendous challenge for us defensively. I'm very confident that our defensive line will be one of the best we've had in a long time. But we still have to prove ourselves in the secondary."

The Cowboys have overcome problems in

their secondary before, but the importance of that area increases every year. Even the Oakland Raiders, who led the league in interceptions, made a defensive back their No. 1 choice in the draft.

Says Landry: "The defenses will continue to try to catch up to the offense. The thing that was more noticeable last year was the defensive backs playing up on receivers more than I've seen before, in all situations. I think you're going to see more of that. The only way you're going to slow the receivers down is to get on them early, within the five-yard limit, to prevent them from freewheeling downfield."

A good pass rush helps cover up weaknesses in the secondary, but teams like Philadelphia and Washington don't have as many weaknesses to cover up. Steve Wilson and Aaron Mitchell are the Cowboy corner-

backs on the spot. Both are entering their third seasons and both receive mixed reviews.

"We put a great deal of responsibility on our young corners last year and they performed extremely well at times and very poorly at others," said Landry. "Even though he got burned a number of times last year, Wilson has . . . the speed, movement, and tackling ability to become a pretty good corner. Mitchell showed at times that he could perform well and at other times he got beat consistently."

"These two guys have just got to improve in training camp this summer, and if they do, then maybe we'll be O.K. If they don't, then we've got a problem."

Those don't sound like encouraging words.

There's more: "Benny Barnes can play corner, but I don't know if he can play 16 straight games there. I think he'll play part-time."

COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
31	Barnes, Benny	CB	6-1	195	30	10	Stanford
76	Bethea, Larry	DT	6-5	254	25	4	Michigan St.
53	Breunig, Bob	LB	6-2	225	28	7	Arizona St.
59	Brown, Guy	LB	6-4	228	26	5	Houston
18	Carano, Glenn	QB	6-3	202	26	5	Nevada-LV
47	Clinkscale, Dextor	S	5-11	189	23	2	S.C. St.
61	Cooper, Jim	T	6-5	260	26	5	Temple
84	Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-6	230	25	3	Santa Clara
51	Dickerson, Anthony	LB	6-2	214	24	2	SMU
67	Donovan, Pat	T	6-4	250	28	7	Stanford
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	190	27	5	Pittsburgh
89	DuPree, Billy Joe	TE	6-4	229	31	9	Michigan St.
78	Dutton, John	DT	6-7	265	30	8	Nebraska
62	Fitzgerald, John	C	6-5	260	33	11	Boston Coll.
71	Frederick, Andy	T	6-6	255	27	5	New Mexico
75	Grimmett, Rich	T	6-7	270	26	1	Illinois
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	225	28	6	Tenn. St.
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6-2	198	25	5	Stanford
14	Hogeboom, Gary	QB	6-4	201	23	2	C. Michigan
42	Hughes, Randy	S	6-4	207	28	7	Oklahoma
57	Huther, Bruce	LB	6-1	220	27	5	New Hampshire
86	Johnson, Butch	WR	6-1	192	27	6	UC-Riverside
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	260	30	6	Tenn. St.
23	Jones, James	RB	5-10	201	23	2	Miss. St.
50	Lewis, D.D.	LB	6-1	215	36	13	Miss. St.
22	Manning, Wade	CB	5-11	190	26	2	Ohio St.
79	Martin, Harvey	DE	6-5	250	31	9	E. Texas St.
34	Mitchell, Aaron	CB	6-1	196	25	3	Nevada-LV
44	Newhouse, Robert	FB	5-10	215	31	10	Houston
30	Newsome, Timmy	FB	6-1	227	23	2	Win.-Salem
88	Pearson, Drew	WR	6-0	183	30	9	Tulsa
26	Pearson, Preston	RB	6-1	196	36	15	Illinois
65	Petersen, Kurt	G	6-4	251	24	2	Missouri
64	Rafferty, Tom	G	6-3	250	29	6	Penn. St.
56	Roe, Bill	LB	6-3	230	23	2	Colorado
87	Saldi, Jay	TE	6-3	227	27	6	South Carolina
68	Scott, Herbert	G	6-2	252	28	7	Virginia Union
1	Septien, Rafael	K	5-9	171	28	5	SW Louisiana
52	Shaw, Robert	C	6-4	245	25	3	Tennessee
	Smerek, Don	DE	6-7	250	24	1	Nevada-Reno
20	Springs, Ron	FB	6-1	200	25	3	Ohio St.
77	Thornton, Bruce	DE	6-5	265	23	3	Illinois
32	Thurman, Dennis	S	5-11	170	25	4	USC
41	Waters, Charlie	S	6-2	200	33	11	Clemson
66	Wells, Norm	OL	6-5	261	24	2	Northwestern
11	White, Danny	QB-P	6-2	192	29	6	Arizona St.
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	250	28	7	Maryland
45	Wilson, Steve	CB	5-10	192	24	3	Howard

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Richards, Howard	OL	6-5	255	22	Missouri
2	Donley, Doug	WR	6-0	180	22	Ohio St.
3	Titensor, Glen	DE	6-4	250	23	BYU
4	Peltier, Scott	LB	6-1	213	22	Wash. St.
4	Nelson, Darrie	LB	6-2	217	23	Nebraska
5	Spradlin, Danny	LB	6-1	229	22	Tennessee
6	Skilling, Vince	DB	5-11	176	22	Ohio St.
7	Fellows, Ron	DB	5-11	165	23	Missouri
7	Miller, Ken	DB	5-11	180	23	E. Michigan
8	Purowski, Paul	LB	6-2	219	22	Florida St.
9	Wilson, Mike	WR	6-3	202	23	Wash. St.
10	Graham, Pat	DT	6-3	257	22	California
11	Morrison, Tim	OL	6-3	258	23	Georgia
12	Lundy, Nate	WR	6-0	169	23	Indiana

Barnes used to be a regular corner, but chronic foot problems and operations hindered him. Landry would prefer to play him at safety.

Wade Manning, another third-year player, has possibilities at corner, but he is coming off knee surgery. Manning is a former baseball player with virtually no experience.

If you think there are problems at cornerback, listen to Landry on the safeties: "The situation at safety is really up in the air."

Strong safety Charlie Waters came off knee surgery to play last year, but had another operation on the same knee. Free safety Randy Hughes, who replaced retired Cliff Harris, reinjured a shoulder in the playoffs and had to have another operation. Landry doesn't rule out two new starters: Dennis Thurman for Hughes and Dextor Clinkscale for Waters.

"The doctors feel confident that Randy can be back and play again. Only time will tell," said Landry. "Waters's loss of speed is a problem. He must overcome that with intelligence."

Now for the good part—the blockers, passers, runners, catchers, and tacklers.

White was nothing short of sensational last year, throwing a team record 28 touchdown passes and making it seem like Staubach never left. His fast start erased any fears his teammates or coaches might have harbored. "He was so phenomenal you hated to wake him up," said Landry.

White's ability to read defenses is unquestioned, but he would like to reduce the number of interceptions he threw—25, another team record. White had problems with his left shoulder during the season, but expects to be rehabilitated by the start of the exhibition schedule. Landry thinks enough of White's backups—Glenn Carano and Gary Hogeboom—to say: "I don't know of any team that has better depth at quarterback."

His receivers would make any quarterback's job easier. Drew Pearson is one of the game's all-time great clutch receivers. Although his yardage total dropped almost in half last year as Tony Hill became the primary target, Pearson remains the team's most reliable and indispensable catcher. Hill had his second great season in a row, catching 60 balls again for more than 1,000 yards. But a shoulder injury required surgery and there were some behind-the-scenes charges of malingering.

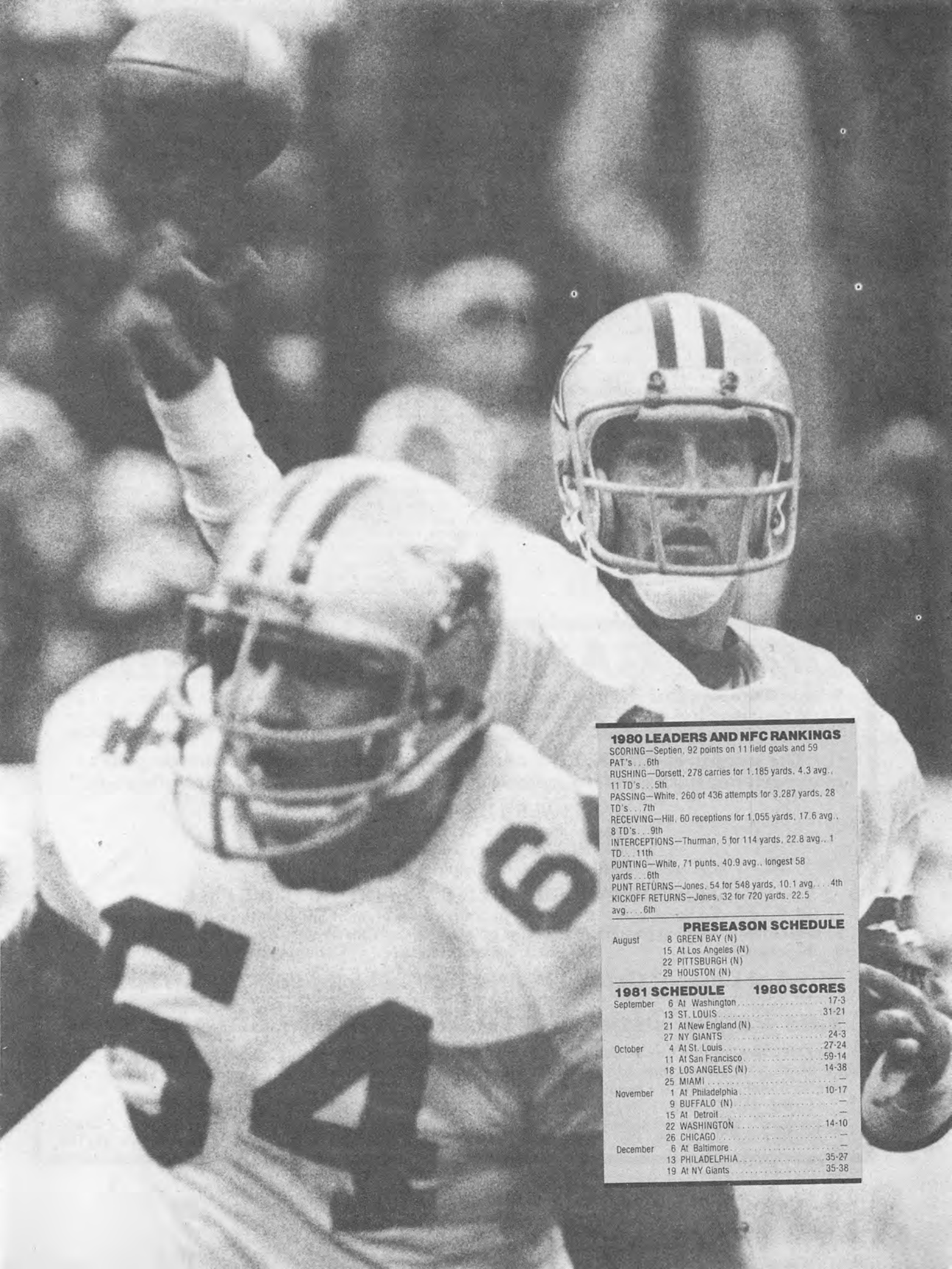
"We feel that Hill should come back stronger this year after the shoulder operation and the recovery of the bruised thigh he had in the playoffs," said Landry. "I don't know of any others who would produce more completions or more yardage than Pearson and Hill."

Their production also has presented morale problems with the backups. Johnson demanded a trade. Since the Cowboys carried only three wide receivers last year, they felt drafting Donley was necessary.

Tight end Jay Saldi plays wide receiver in a pinch, but he would like more playing time. Period. So would Doug Cosbie, but veteran Pro Bowler Billy Joe DuPree refuses to get old or tired. This is another pleasant problem for Landry, who hints at some lineup tinkering.

"Cosbie is reaching the point where he needs to play some more to see what his potential is. But we have three good tight ends."

Offensive guard Tom Rafferty (#64) provides protection for quarterback Danny White; Tony Hill (#80) and Drew Pearson (#88) are top ends.



1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Septon, 92 points on 11 field goals and 59

PAT's... 6th

RUSHING—Dorsett, 278 carries for 1,185 yards, 4.3 avg.,

11 TD's... 5th

PASSING—White, 260 of 436 attempts for 3,287 yards, 28

TD's... 7th

RECEIVING—Hill, 60 receptions for 1,055 yards, 17.6 avg.,

8 TD's... 9th

INTERCEPTIONS—Thurman, 5 for 114 yards, 22.8 avg., 1

TD... 11th

PUNTING—White, 71 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 58

yards... 6th

PUNT RETURNS—Jones, 54 for 548 yards, 10.1 avg.,... 4th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Jones, 32 for 720 yards, 22.5

avg.,... 6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 GREEN BAY (N)
15 At Los Angeles (N)
22 PITTSBURGH (N)
29 HOUSTON (N)

	1981 SCHEDULE	1980 SCORES
September	6 At Washington	17-3
	13 ST. LOUIS	31-21
	21 At New England (N)	—
	27 NY GIANTS	24-3
October	4 At St. Louis	27-24
	11 At San Francisco	59-14
	18 LOS ANGELES (N)	14-38
	25 MIAMI	—
November	1 At Philadelphia	10-17
	9 BUFFALO (N)	—
	15 At Detroit	—
	22 WASHINGTON	14-10
	26 CHICAGO	—
December	6 At Baltimore	—
	13 PHILADELPHIA	35-27
	19 At NY Giants	35-38

Whether we alternate them again as play messengers, I don't know. I'd rather not because I think there comes a time when they need to compete against each other to see who is the best. This could be the summer when that happens."

The Cowboys do not enjoy similar depth from tackle to tackle and for that reason they drafted Richards. With none of the starters yet 30 years old, Richards may have a long apprenticeship. The left side is the strength, where Pro Bowlers Donovan and Scott toil at tackle and guard. On the other side, Landry calls Cooper underrated and Rafferty versatile.

"Rafferty didn't have as good a year last year as he's had previously, but we hope he recovers and does another good job," Landry said. Kurt Petersen, Norm Wells, and Andy Frederick are inexperienced reserves.

The Cowboys had a problem at center where veteran John Fitzgerald was plagued by injuries. Second-year draft choice Robert Shaw, somewhat of a disappointment as a rookie, stepped in at the end of the year.

"He played extremely well," said Landry. "John is going to have to fight off Shaw in training camp and it won't be an easy task because Shaw is a young player who hasn't had the injury record Fitzgerald has had."

Landry would like a more stable situation at fullback, too, but any team employing Tony Dorsett has little cause to complain. The 190-pound halfback can become the first NFL player to reach the 1,000-yard mark in each of his first five years if he just does what comes

naturally. He has gained 1,000 in each of his last ten years of football stretching back to high school.

"He was the best I've seen him at the end of last year in the games leading up to the playoffs and in the playoffs themselves. This is very encouraging," said Landry.

"There's always a question with Tony Dorsett as far as the number of times he should carry the ball. He feels he needs to carry 25 or 30 times a game to produce at a higher level. I'm not sure that's true because of his size. He's not like Earl Campbell. One of the reasons he's been able to gain 1,000 yards for four years is because we haven't pushed him," said Landry. Dorsett carries about 17 times a game. Second-year punt returner James Jones is Dorsett's backup. It will be interesting to see whether the Cowboys feel they need to bring 36-year-old Preston Pearson back.

Landry says the fullback job will be open to Robert Newhouse, Ron Springs, and Timmy Newsome. They tried to give Springs the job last year, but old pro Newhouse won it.

On defense, the line is as strong as the secondary is weak, maybe stronger. Even the retirement of long-time underrated tackle Larry Cole is not expected to slow down production. John Dutton appeared finally ready to take Cole's job next to Randy White, who is one of the best tackles in the business.

"White's performances range anywhere from spectacular to spectacular," Landry says.

The return of Too Tall Jones from the boxing ring solved a lot of problems in a hurry at end.

Veteran Harvey Martin started slowly last year, but finished fast and is still capable of All-Pro pass rushing. Larry Bethea and Bruce Thornton are good backups.

The Cowboys drafted four linebackers, so they aren't as satisfied there. Middle man Bob Breunig is the leader, but veteran D. D. Lewis may call it quits on the weak side. Mike Hegman did well in his first year on the strong side, but Landry is looking for better depth from among Guy Brown, Bruce Huther, Bill Roe, and Anthony Dickerson.

Landry wants to relieve Danny White from punting duties, but he wanted to do the same thing last year. More consistency in the 30- to 40-yard range is desired of field-goal kicker Rafael Septien.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

While the Redskins awaited the return of John Riggins for the second year in a row, they were able to ponder a few interesting statistics that add up to one fact: they are not a bad club without the big fullback.

Even though Riggins took his 1,000 yards and went home, and the Redskins took him seriously and retired him, the club finished 13th in the league in rushing. Finishing 13th in rushing after losing one of the game's great rushers is no small accomplishment. The Philadelphia Eagles, for instance, finished 14th in rushing and made it to the Super Bowl. The Pittsburgh Steelers finished 15th in rushing, the San Diego Chargers 16th. You get the idea.

The Redskins didn't suffer their first losing

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season in ten years because John Riggins went home; they lost because they were injured and sloppy. Only once did the same five offensive linemen play two weeks in a row. Penalties cost the Redskins 1,008 yards, a club record and second in the league in 1980. They lost 18 fumbles and 18 interceptions and the 36 giveaways were markedly up from the total of 25 in 1979.

Maybe that is why Jack Pardee was fired as coach even after winning his last three games, including a 40-17 rout of the Chargers. The Chargers, incidentally, were quick to hire Pardee as defensive coordinator to prevent that sort of embarrassment from occurring again. Pardee's task in Washington was to pick up the pieces left by George Allen, who spent now and let someone else pay later. Perhaps Pardee's biggest mistake was a 10-6 record in 1979. Everyone knew the job would require patience, a virtue owner Jack Kent Cooke apparently lacked. In his first full season as the club's active owner last year, Cooke predicted a Super Bowl trip.

So now the Redskins have turned to Joe Gibbs, the coach in charge of San Diego fireworks. If Cooke is looking for instant excitement, he probably hired the right man. The Chargers set NFL passing records in 1979 and 1980. The Redskins' offense finished 23d in the league in total yardage and 25th in points.

While Pardee suggested the team's biggest need for 1981 was an intimidating pass rusher, Gibbs ignored defense until the fifth round of the draft and wound up with only two defensive players in 11 choices. The cornerstone of Gibbs's philosophy is aggression.

"On offense, we want to dictate to the defense all the time," Gibbs said. "We want to go into the game each week with the idea that we are going to make the defense try to keep up with us. We're going out to win games on offense. We're not going to try to avoid losing, we're going to be the aggressor."

Since scoring points is Gibbs's specialty, the Redskins appear to be in good hands, especially with Joe Theismann's hands around the ball. Despite the Redskins' record, Theismann threw for the most passing yardage by a Washington quarterback since 1969. He is the unquestioned leader of the team now, a role that came slowly and painfully for him in the wake of legends like Sonny Jurgensen and Billy Kilmer. Few quarterbacks in football have the ability to run out of trouble and throw on the run as well as Theismann does. Although he keeps in top shape and has been durable throughout his career, Theismann turns 32 during the first week of the season. Gibbs's job is to upgrade the offense before Theismann gets too old.

The Redskins started doing it before draft day when they decided to trade from 9th place in the first round to 20th, picking up extra later-round choices from Los Angeles. They used one of the picks to trade for Baltimore halfback Joe Washington in hopes of adding the speed they lacked. Washington is an outstanding receiver who can open up an offense in a hurry. And just to underscore that need, the Redskins signed Terry Metcalf from Canada. The skills of Metcalf and Washington are nearly identical. Add the expected return of the 32-year-old Riggins and the running offense looks solid.

Running backs Terry Metcalf and John Riggins (#44) join Joe Theismann (#7) in rebuilt Redskins' offense.

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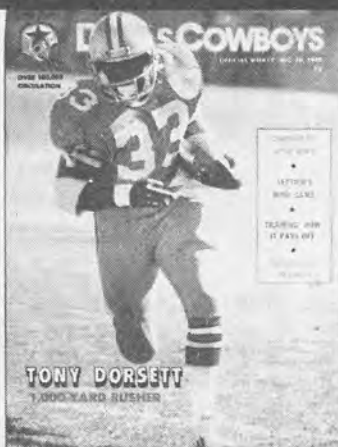




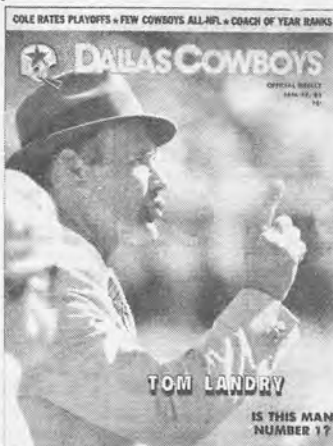
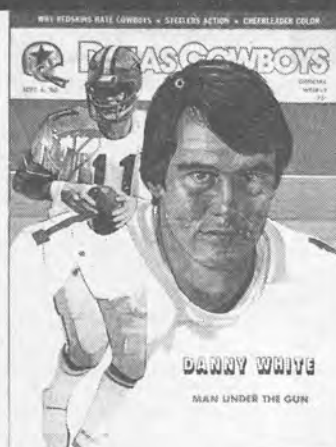
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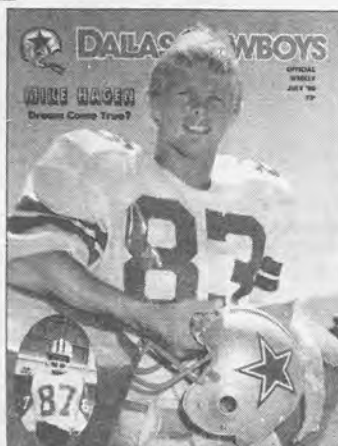
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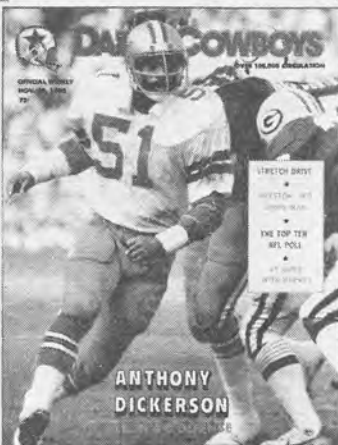


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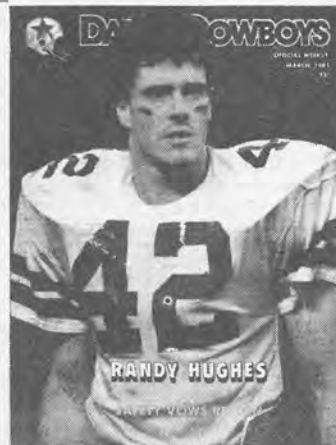
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1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Moseley, 81 points on 18 field goals and 27 PAT's... 7th
RUSHING—Jackson, 176 carries for 708 yards, 4.0 avg., 3 TD's... 14th
PASSING—Theismann, 262 of 454 attempts for 2,962 yards, 17 TD's... 8th
RECEIVING—Monk, 58 receptions for 797 yards, 13.7 avg., 3 TD's... 10th
INTERCEPTIONS—Parrish, 7 for 13 yards, 1.9 avg... 3rd
PUNTING—Connell, 85 punts, 39.2 avg., longest 57 yards... 11th
PUNT RETURNS—Neims, 48 for 487 yards, 10.1 avg... 5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Neims, 38 for 810 yards, 21.3 avg... 11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 KANSAS CITY (N)
 14 MINNESOTA (N)
 22 At Baltimore (N)
 30 At New England

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September 6 DALLAS 3-17
 13 NY GIANTS 16-13
 20 At St. Louis 31-7
 27 At Philadelphia 14-24
 October 4 SAN FRANCISCO —
 11 At Chicago 21-35
 18 At Miami —
 25 NEW ENGLAND —
 November 1 ST. LOUIS 23-0
 8 DETROIT —
 15 At NY Giants 23-21
 22 At Dallas 10-14
 29 At Buffalo —
 December 6 PHILADELPHIA 0-24
 13 BALTIMORE —
 20 At Los Angeles —



Since the Redskins had problems protecting Theismann, help was needed in the offensive line. Forgive them if they change their nickname to Panthers next year. Pitt's offensive tackle Mark May and center Russ Grimm were the first two draft choices. The 280-pound May won the Outland Trophy as the nation's best lineman and could move in soon for Terry Hermeling, who is in his final season. A free agent from last year, Jerry Scanlan, has shown enough to earn a shot at a starting job. George Starke is 33, not far behind Hermeling in retirement plans.

Guard Ron Saul is in his 12th year and will be pushed by another second-year prospect, Melvin Jones. Fred Dean, Dan Nugent, and Jones will vie for the other guard spot vacated by the trade of Jeff Williams to San Diego. One of Pardee's projects before he left was to upgrade the center position. General manager Bobby Beathard agreed by drafting Grimm, who will get a shot at the job shared last year by Bob Kuziel and Dan Peiffer. Theismann was sacked 36 times last year. Leaky pass protection was blamed for a decrease in Theismann's touchdown passes (from 20 to 17) and an increase in interceptions (from 13 to 16).

Wide receiver Art Monk, who was the Redskins' first No. 1 draft choice since 1968, proved worth the wait. He was the best rookie receiver in the league. The former Syracuse running back didn't become a starter until week seven, but he went on to break Charley Taylor's rookie record by catching 58 passes. Five of those catches were good for 40 or more yards, although he was able to get into the end zone only three times. Since he is the team's only deep threat, Theismann needs to find him for more points.

Ricky Thompson is the other starter at wide receiver. He caught five touchdown passes and had two more nullified, but he does it with finesse rather than speed. With John McDaniel coming off injured reserve, there is not much reliable depth at wide receiver, so the Redskins hope to find some help among three prospects chosen late in the draft.

Don Warren caught 31 passes from his spot at tight end, but failed to get into the end zone. Entering his third year, Warren is another rare product of the Redskin draft. Rick Walker and Phil DuBois are Warren's backups. Theismann used halfback Clarence Harmon as his second favorite receiver to Monk. Joe Washington or Metcalf will be used in similar fashion.

The acquisition of veteran fullback Wilbur Jackson to make up for the absence of Riggins resulted in a creditable 708 yards rushing and a good four-yard average. Jackson, an accomplished blocker, would be even more effective with a quicker halfback to spread defenses out. Harmon ran for 484 yards, Bobby Hammond for 265, and rookie Rickey Claitt for 265, but the Redskins had no runners who scared a defense. Harmon scored four touchdowns running; Theismann scored three.

Defensively, the Redskins are more proven than they are on offense, and they hope they have added more beef in the front line. Last year, they led the NFC in pass defense, were seventh in total defense, and eighth in points surrendered.

Defensive tackle Dave Butz (#65), cornerback Lemar Parrish (#24), and wide receiver Art Monk of Washington



REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
79	Bacon, Coy	DE	6-4	265	38	14	Jackson St
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	246	23	2	Clemson
69	Brooks, Perry	DT	6-3	260	27	4	Southern
64	Butz, Dave	DT	6-7	285	31	9	Purdue
35	Claitt, Rickey	RB	5-10	206	24	2	Beth-Cookman
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	24	3	Gen Arkansas
10	Connell, Mike	P	6-1	200	25	3	Cincinnati
63	Dean, Fred	G	6-3	253	26	5	Tex Southern
	Dimler, Rich	DT	6-6	260	25	2	Southern Cal
86	DuBois, Phil	TE	6-2	220	25	2	San Diego St
59	Dusek, Brad	LB	6-2	223	31	8	Texas A&M
30	Forte, Ike	RB	6-0	211	27	6	Arkansas
	Gibbons, Mike	T/G	6-4	262	30	3	SW Okla. St.
34	Hammond, Bobby	RB	5-10	170	29	6	Morgan State
22	Hardeman, Buddy	RB	6-0	202	27	3	Iowa State
38	Harmon, Clarence	RB	5-11	209	26	5	Miss. St.
89	Harrison, Kenny	WR	6-0	170	28	5	SMU
75	Hermeling, Terry	T	6-5	255	35	12	Nevada-Reno
82	Hickman, Dallas	DE-LB	6-6	242	29	6	Cal - Berkeley
40	Jackson, Wilbur	RB	6-1	219	30	7	Alabama
15	Kruczek, Mike	QB	6-1	205	28	6	Boston Coll.
54	Kuziel, Bob	C	6-5	255	31	7	Pittsburgh
20	Lavender, Joe	CB	6-4	185	32	9	San Diego St
71	Lorch, Karl	DE	6-3	258	31	6	Southern Cal.
80	McDaniel, John	WR	6-1	197	30	8	Lincoln
84	McKinney, Zion	WR	6-0	200	23	2	So. Carolina
	Metcalf, Terry	RB	5-10	190	30	6	Long Beach
57	Milot, Rich	LB	6-4	230	24	3	Penn State
81	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	209	24	2	Syracuse
3	Moseley, Mark	K	6-0	205	31	10	S.F. Austin
29	Murphy, Mark	FS	6-4	210	26	5	Colgate
21	Neims, Mike	FS	6-1	185	26	2	Baylor
62	Nugent, Dan	G	6-4	250	28	5	Auburn
52	Olkewicz, Neal	LB	6-0	227	24	3	Maryland
24	Parrish, Lemar	CB	5-10	170	34	12	Lincoln
56	Peiffer, Dan	C	6-3	251	30	4	SE Mo. St.
23	Peters, Tony	SS	6-1	177	28	7	Oklahoma St.
	Riggins, John	RB	6-2	230	32	11	Kansas
64	Saul, Ron	G	6-3	254	33	12	Michigan St.
76	Scanlan, Jerry	T	6-5	270	24	2	Hawaii
74	Starke, George	T	6-5	250	33	9	Columbia
7	Theismann, Joe	QB	6-0	195	32	8	Notre Dame
83	Thompson, Ricky	WR	6-0	177	27	6	Baylor
47	Waddy, Ray	CB	5-11	175	25	3	Texas A&I
88	Walker, Rick	TE	6-4	235	26	5	UCLA
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	236	25	3	San Diego St.
	Washington, Joe	RB	5-10	179	28	6	Oklahoma
45	White, Jeris	CB	5-10	188	29	8	Hawaii
	Young, Wilbur	DE	6-6	290	32	11	Wm. Penn.

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	May, Mark	OT	6-6	270	22	Pittsburgh
3	Grimm, Russ	C	6-3	250	21	Pittsburgh
4	Flick, Tom	QB	6-1	190	21	Washington
5	Manley, Dexter	DE	6-3	240	22	Okla. St.
5	Sayre, Gary	G	6-5	265	22	Cameron St.
6	Kubin, Larry	LB	6-2	230	21	Penn St.
8	Brown, Charlie	WR	5-11	180	22	S.C. St.
9	Grant, Darryl	G	6-1	239	21	Rice
10	Kessell, Phil	QB	6-2	180	21	N. Michigan
10	Kennedy, Allan	T	6-7	275	22	Wash. St.
11	Hill, Jerry	WR	6-1	180	22	N. Alabama
12	Oldier, Clint	WR	6-3	238	22	Portland St.



"I would hope that we continue the tradition the Redskins have had there," Gibbs says. "We want to play a four-man line and . . . we'll do the attacking on defense. I think you win by going after people and making things happen. When you're hitting people, the ball is going to come flying out of there."

With 33 interceptions and 12 fumble recoveries, the defense made up for the offensive giveaways. The No. 1 pass defense allowed only 135 yards a game, but the rushing defense allowed 157 yards, 27th in the league. Why pass when you could run?

The Redskins sacked opposing quarterbacks 43 times and allowed a league-low 47 percent pass-completion rate. The strength is at the corners, where veterans Lemar Parrish and Joe Lavender continue to rank among the league leaders in interceptions. Parrish had seven and Lavender six and no NFC cornerbacks had more. With free safety Mark Murphy also stealing six, no secondary in the NFC was close. Although Parrish is 33 and Lavender 32, and Parrish gets accused of backing off the sweeps, neither would have trouble finding work anywhere in this pass-happy sport. Tony Peters is the strong safety and return specialist Mike Nelms is a capable backup.

Despite criticism, the Redskins' front line finished among league leaders in sacks. Ancient Coy Bacon, bid "good riddance" by one Washington columnist after the season, nevertheless led the team with 11 sacks and may be forced to drag his 38-year-old body into action

again by the fall. The Redskins would prefer to see last year's No. 2 draft choice, Mat Mendenhall, send Bacon into permanent retirement. Mendenhall spent the season on injured reserve after Beathard gave him rave reviews at the draft. The acquisition of Wilbur Young from San Diego may create a traffic jam at end, where Karl Lorch had seven and a half sacks and is solid entering his sixth year. Dave Butz and Perry Brooks are capable tackles.

Three third-year linebackers—Monte Coleman, Neal Olkewicz, and Rich Milot—are Pardee's greatest contribution to the franchise. An 11th rounder, free agent, and 7th rounder, respectively, they were molded into an effective, aggressive unit in a short period of time by the linebacker-turned-coach.

Special teams have a special place in Redskin tradition. Nelms earned Pro Bowl honors with a 10.1 punt-return average and a 21.3 kickoff average. Kicker Mark Moseley overcame an early-season slump and missed only two attempts inside 40 yards. He scored over 80 points for a fifth consecutive season, while tying a club mark of five field goals in one game. He is only 31, still young for a kicker. Third-year punter Mike Connell averaged 42.2 yards over his final seven games, indicating better things to come for this season.

"I guess maybe we always think the division that we're in is tough," says Gibbs, "but I think

this is the toughest in football now. Here you have two teams capable of not just getting to but winning the Super Bowl and three teams fighting hard and constantly improving."

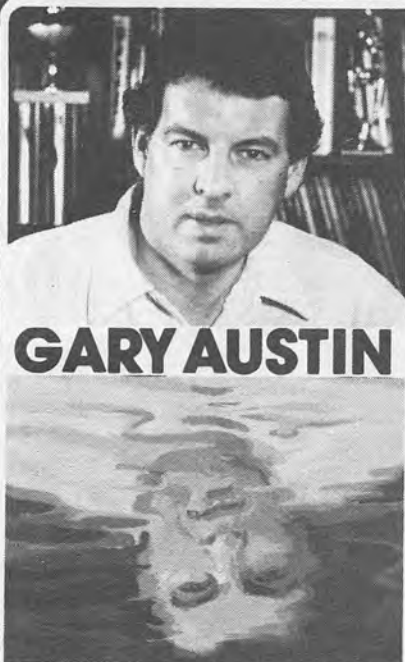
NEW YORK GIANTS

The rebuilding program of the New York Giants enters its 18th year in 1981. After their last championship game in 1963, the Giants fell to a 2-10-2 record and have managed only two winning seasons since. Were it not for the woeful New Orleans Saints, who have had no winning seasons in their 14-year lifetime, the Giants would be alone at the bottom of the National Football League basement.

Various things have been blamed for the perennial futility. There have been bad coaches, bad offensive coordinators, bad snaps, bad drafts, bad weather, bad management, bad ownership, bad trades, bad schedules, bad quarterbacks, bad cornerbacks, bad vibes, bad attitude, and bad luck. And, oh yes, bad injuries.

Injuries were at the forefront of explanations for last season's 4-12 record, down from 6-10 the year before. Although any explanations sound like lame excuses for such an ineffective franchise, there are some compelling statistics this time that almost draw a tear of sympathy. The injured-reserve list had 35 players on it at one time or another during the season. At the end of the year, there were 19 on the list and four more on the non-football injured list. Of those 23 players, 16 were starters at one time

Brad Van Pelt (#10) and Harry Carson (#53) anchor New York linebacking.



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or another, including five of six regular linebackers from 1979—Harry Carson, Brian Kelley, Dan Lloyd, John Skorupan, and Frank Marion.

The linebacking situation became so desperate by November that the Giants had to put in a call to a house painter in Wisconsin named Joe McLaughlin on a Monday afternoon for help. McLaughlin, who had been a free-agent tryout in 1979, flew to New Jersey on Tuesday, passed a physical, worked out for three days, and started against Dallas on Sunday. He led the team with ten tackles.

If that sounds ridiculous, listen to this. In the Giants' prospectus for the 1981 season, it says linebackers are "perhaps the strongest area of the entire club." This was published before the draft, when the Giants evidently decided to make their strength stronger by picking linebacker Lawrence Taylor of North Carolina.

Taylor, it is hoped, will be able to join All-Pro Brad Van Pelt, former All-Pro Harry Carson, and somebody else in giving the Giants one of the best linebacking groups in football. That is how it looks on paper anyway. The plan can hardly be faulted. The Giants finished 24th in defense last year, 26th against the run and 17th against



1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Danelo, 75 points on 16 field goals and 27 PAT's 11th
RUSHING—Taylor, 147 carries for 580 yards, 3.9 avg., 4 TD's 16th
PASSING—Simms, 193 of 402 attempts for 2,321 yards, 15 TD's 15th
RECEIVING—Gray, 52 receptions for 777 yards, 14.9 avg., 10 TD's 18th
INTERCEPTIONS—Dennis, 5 for 68 yards, 13.6 avg., 14th
PUNTING—Jennings, 94 punts, 44.8 avg., longest 63 yards 1st
PUNT RETURNS—Garrett, 35 for 287 yards, 8.2 avg., 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Reece, 24 for 471 yards, 19.6 avg., 16th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At Chicago (N)
15 BALTIMORE (N)
22 NY JETS (N)
29 At Pittsburgh (N)

	1981 SCHEDULE	1980 SCORES
September	6 PHILADELPHIA	16-31
	13 At Washington	13-16
	20 NEW ORLEANS	—
	27 At Dallas	3-24
October	4 GREEN BAY	27-21
	11 ST. LOUIS	7-23
	18 At Seattle	27-21
	25 At Atlanta	—
November	1 NY JETS	—
	8 At Green Bay (Milwaukee)	—
	15 WASHINGTON	21-23
	22 At Philadelphia	3-35
	29 At San Francisco	0-12
December	6 LOS ANGELES	7-28
	13 At St. Louis	41-35
	19 DALLAS	38-35



the pass. There was room for improvement.

The Giants, however, could have justified doing anything on draft day. They were 27th in offense, 25th in rushing, and 26th in passing. No other team in football finished so low in so many offensive and defensive categories. They could have drafted a long snapper, using the rationale that punter Dave Jennings is their best player and should be provided every amenity. They could have traded their draft choice for extra picks in later rounds, because, heaven knows, they need all the bodies they can get. Last year, there were 75 players on the active roster at one time or another. With all the injuries, they could have drafted a young surgeon and few jaded New Yorkers would have raised an eyebrow. Yeah, maybe a surgeon will turn this team around.

Through the disappointment comes hope, expressed between the gritted teeth of coach Ray Perkins: "The losing will stop." Perkins is as highly-strung as coaches are made, but living proof that intensity is not the only ingredient for success. Before he came to New York, he said the one losing season he experienced, at New England, darn near killed him.

Of 1980, he says: "I'll be perfectly honest. I wouldn't want to experience another season like it. But I don't think I ever will, either." Perkins, who had his contract extended through 1982, is optimistic.

"If you forget the injuries, we made good progress. And the attitude is better," he says.

The schedule certainly is better and that is reason for optimism. It is the result of finishing in fifth place, a reward for ineptitude that infuriates every team that finishes higher. While the Giants' East division rivals St. Louis, Washington, Dallas, and Philadelphia are struggling with the top four AFC East division teams

Giant talents: punter Dave Jennings (#13), quarterback Phil Simms (#11), running back Billy Taylor (#38), and defensive end George Martin

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Since the new scheduling system went into effect in 1978, fifth-place teams have been able to improve their position in six of eight cases.

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
62	Apuna, Ben	LB	6-1	222	24	2	Arizona St.
60	Benson, Brad	OT	6-3	258	25	4	Penn St.
23	Blount, Tony	S	6-1	195	23	2	Virginia
12	Brunner, Scott	QB	6-5	200	24	2	Delaware
	Burt, Jim	NT	6-2	249	22	R	Miami
56	Clack, Jim	C	6-3	250	33	11	Wake Forest
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-3	240	28	6	S.C. St.
	Cunningham, Steve	LB	6-5	245	25	2	Minnesota
18	Danelo, Joe	PK	5-9	166	28	7	Wash. St.
46	Dennis, Mike	DB	5-10	190	23	2	Wyoming
	Donovan, Tom	WR	5-11	179	23	2	Penn St.
	Dove, Jerome	DB	6-2	193	28	5	Colorado St.
63	Falcon, Terry	OG	6-3	260	26	4	Montana
22	Felton, Eric	DB	6-0	200	26	4	Texas Tech
	Flowers, Larry	DB	6-1	190	23	2	Texas A&I
88	Friede, Mike	WR	6-3	205	24	2	Indiana
25	Garrett, Alvin	RB	5-7	178	25	2	Angelo St.
83	Gray, Earnest	WR	6-3	195	24	3	Memphis St.
36	Haynes, Mark	DB	5-11	185	22	2	Colorado
27	Heater, Larry	RB	5-11	205	23	2	Arizona
26	Hebert, Bud	S	6-0	190	24	2	Oklahoma
47	Henry, Steve	S	6-2	190	24	3	Emporia St.
77	Holland, Vern	OT	6-5	267	33	11	Tennessee
24	Jackson, Terry	DB	5-10	197	26	4	San Diego St.
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6-4	205	29	8	St. Lawrence
70	Jeter, Gary	DE	6-4	260	26	5	USC
89	Johnson, Dennis	TE	6-3	220	25	4	Miss. St.
84	Johnson, Nate	WR	5-11	192	24	2	Hillsdale
55	Kelly, Brian	LB	6-3	225	30	9	Cal Lutheran
72	King, Gordon	OT	6-6	275	25	4	Stanford
33	King, Jerome	DB	5-10	175	26	3	Purdue
44	Kotar, Doug	RB	5-11	205	30	8	Kentucky
71	Lapka, Myron	DT	6-4	255	24	2	USC
74	Linnin, Chris	DE	6-4	255	24	2	Washington
76	McGriff, Curtis	OT	6-5	270	23	2	Alabama
52	McLaughlin, Joe	LB	6-1	235	24	3	Massachusetts
51	Marion, Frank	LB	6-3	228	30	5	Florida A&M
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4	245	28	7	Oregon
41	Matthews, Bo	RB	6-3	222	29	8	Colorado
81	Mullady, Tom	TE	6-3	232	24	3	SW Memphis
15	Olander, Cliff	QB	6-5	187	26	5	New Mex. St.
21	Patterson, Don	DB	5-11	175	24	3	Georgia Tech
86	Perkins, Johnny	WR	6-2	205	28	5	Ab. Christian
30	Perry, Leon	RB	5-11	225	24	2	Mississippi
82	Pittman, Danny	WR	6-2	205	23	2	Wyoming
28	Reece, Beasley	S	6-1	195	27	6	N. Texas St.
34	Rivers, Nate	RB	6-3	215	26	2	S.C. St.
59	Saalfeld, Kelly	C	6-3	246	23	2	Nebraska
67	Shirk, Gary	TE	6-1	220	31	6	Morehead St.
69	Simmons, Roy	OG	6-3	264	24	3	Georgia Tech.
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	216	25	3	Morehead St.
65	Sinnot, John	OT	6-4	275	23	2	Brown
57	Skorupian, John	LB	6-3	225	30	9	Penh St.
78	Small, George	DT	6-2	260	25	2	N.C. A&T
80	Tabor, Phil	DT	6-4	255	24	3	Oklahoma
38	Taylor, Billy	RB	6-0	215	25	4	Texas Tech.
52	Tobin, Steve	C	6-4	258	24	2	Minnesota
68	Turner, J.T.	OG	6-3	255	28	5	Duke
66	Turner, Kevin	LB	6-2	225	23	2	Pacific
10	Van Pelt, Brad	LB	6-5	235	30	9	Mich. St.
73	Weston, Jeff	OT	6-5	255	25	3	Notre Dame
58	Whittington, Mike	LB	6-2	220	23	2	Notre Dame
61	Wyatt, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	24	2	Maryland

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	242	22	N. Carolina
2	Young, Dave	TE	6-6	242	21	Purdue
3	Mistler, John	WR	6-2	186	23	Arizona St.
4	Chatman, Clifford	RB	6-2	225	22	Central St.
5	Neill, Bill	DT	6-4	255	22	Pittsburgh
6	Hoover, Melvin	WR	5-11	171	22	Arizona St.
7	O'Neal, Edward	RB	6-1	215	21	Tuskegee
7	Jackson, Louis	RB	5-10	196	22	Cal Poly SLO
8	Powers, John	OG	6-3	265	23	Michigan
8	Reed, Mark	QB	6-3	195	22	Morehead St.
8	Ard, Bill	OG	6-3	250	22	Wake Forest
9	Hunt, Byron	LB	6-4	230	23	SMU
10	Barker, Mike	DT	6-4	272	22	Grambling
11	Maher, Mike	TE	6-5	230	22	W. Illinois

The Giants had the experience once, moving from fifth to fourth in 1979 before falling to fifth again against the much more difficult fourth-place schedule.

This year's goal will be to move higher than fourth. If they are to have a chance, quarterback Phil Simms is the key. The third-year pro has displayed the talent to do it, but not yet the consistency. Presumably, that comes with age. Last year, he threw five touchdown passes against the St. Louis Cardinals in the first game, but completed only 12 of 30 throws for a meager 106 yards in their next encounter.

Simms passed the Dallas Cowboys silly, tossing for three touchdowns and 351 yards in a thrilling 38-35 victory. The next week, he bombed the Packers for 322 yards and three more touchdowns. The third week, he was sacked ten times in a 12-0 loss to the 49ers.

Simms threw 15 touchdown passes during the year. In three games, he threw 11; in the remaining ten games in which he played, he threw four. A bruised shoulder shelved Simms for the final three games, robbing him of the chance to develop more consistency and to erase Fran Tarkenton's club record of 226 completions.

His absence also gave rookie Scott Brunner a chance to play, which gave the Giants more confidence than ever in the position. In his first start, Brunner completed two touchdown passes in a victory over Seattle. By the end of the year, GM George Young was calling the sixth-rounder from Delaware "a steal."

To improve the overall offense, the Giants need to surround Simms with more weapons. They addressed themselves to that in the draft. Of their 14 selections, ten are offensive players, including second- and third-round choices Dave Young and John Mistler.

Young is a big, fast, sure-handed tight end who could take pressure off Earnest Gray, the Giants' top receiver. Gray's ten touchdown catches last year put him in the company of Homer Jones and Del Shofner for all-time Giant producers. His four TD receptions against St. Louis was a club record and his 52 catches for the season were the most for a Giant since Shofner's 64 in 1963. Gray started every game, no small accomplishment for any Giant.

Second-year receiver Danny Pittman, a good producer as a rookie, has the inside track for the spot opposite Gray. But there will be competition as Perkins tries to get more speed into the lineup. It would appear to be make-or-break year for Johnny Perkins, who caught three touchdown passes last year, but spent ten games on injured reserve. Mike Friede, a free agent, dazzled Giants' fans with acrobatic catches before a serious knee injury put him out. He is not the answer to the question of speed, but is a threat to start. Nate Johnson saw limited action after he was picked up from the Pittsburgh Steelers. He is the fastest of the prospects. Rookie Mistler left Arizona State with more touchdown catches than anyone except John Jefferson. This will make him a threat to start, too, although his hands are more respected than his speed.

The speed may have to come from Young, who has run a 4.7 in the 40 despite his 6-6, 242-pound bulk. At Purdue, Young became the first tight end to ever lead the nation in receiving. He played more of a wide-receiver role there and his blocking is suspect. So is his attitude. Lazy was one of the kinder tags put on him by scouts. But none doubt his potential.

"I wouldn't take him," said one, "but he'll

probably go somewhere and catch 70 balls." Young will get competition from veteran overachiever Gary Shirk and second-year man Tom Mullady, whose 28 catches put him behind only Gray and halfback Billy Taylor.

Taylor has led Giant runners for two years despite missing six games last year with injury. He should get help this season from veteran Doug Kotar, who missed all last season with a knee injury. Two fullbacks, Bo Matthews and free agent Leon Perry, have provided adequate blocking, but the Giant running game is in need of depth and speed.

Rookie Clifford Chatman, a fourth-rounder, has the size (6-2, 225) and speed (4.5) to give the team an instant boost. But Chatman must prove he can make the transition from NAIA competition at Central State (Okla.) to the NFL. The Giants don't seem to fear the small-college tag. They made two other small-school runners their sixth- and seventh-round draft choices in hopes of getting lucky.

Perkins feels his offensive line is improving nicely. He calls young guards J.T. Turner and Roy Simmons "two guys we can play with and win with." Yet the Giants made two guards with big names, Michigan's John Powers and Wake Forest's Billy Ard, eighth-round picks. Tackles Brad Benson and Gordon King enter their fourth year and center Jim Clack just missed the Pro Bowl. Depth is inexperienced.

On defense, right end Gary Jeter is coming off his best season. He led the club in tackles and sacks and is complemented well by veteran left end George Martin. At noseguard, Phil Tabor and Curtis McGriff may have competition from rookie Bill Neill of Pitt or from second-year man Myron Lapka. Chris Linnin, George Small, and 6-8, 280 Dale Markham will have to provide better depth and give Perkins more versatility in four-man pass-rush situations.

The linebacking has the potential to upgrade the entire defense. Pro Bowler Van Pelt is showing no signs of slowing down in his eighth season. His game against Dallas last year in the Giants' 38-35 victory was the stuff of legends. Carson missed half the season with injuries, but is still formidable when physically and mentally right. If Dan Lloyd continues his remarkable comeback from cancer of the lymph nodes, the Giants will have an added bonus in the middle. But he won't play until 1982. Rookie Lawrence will start right away, probably on the right side.

Receiver Mike Friede of Giants





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St. Louis quarterback Jim Hart (top) cranks up for his seventeenth season; running back Ottis Anderson with Charlie Smith of Philadelphia Eagles

although veteran Brian Kelley should be back after 14 games on the injured list. Kelley could move inside. Frank Marion, Kervin Wyatt, Mike Whittington, and Kevin Turner all played enough last year to create some hard roster decisions for Perkins.

In the secondary, the Giants hope last year's No. 1 draft choice, Mark Haynes, lives up to the potential that made him first in a class of good cornerback prospects. He was beaten out by a surprise free agent, Mike Dennis, but started after veteran Terry Jackson got hurt. Three experienced cornerbacks are more than many teams can boast. At strong safety, Beasley Reece established himself last year, but there is a scramble for the free-safety spot among Bud Hebert, Gary Woolford, Steve Henry, Larry Flowers, and Tony Blount.

Kicking is a Giant strength. Jennings is the best punter in football. Ray Guy notwithstanding, and place-kicker Joe Danelo made 13 of his final 15 field goal attempts. Alvin Garrett is a solid punt and kickoff specialist.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

The story of St. Louis Cardinal football seems almost as old as their venerable quarterback, Jim Hart. The story was true when the Cardinals lost and it was true even when the Cardinals won East division titles in 1974-75. The offense was good and the defense bad. Good hit, no field. It left the Cardinals on the short end of too many 30-27 games. It was exciting football, but not solid football. It sold tickets, but it also earned a one-way ticket out of town for offensive genius Don Coryell.

If the defense ever caught up with the offense, the story line went, the Cardinals would be in the Super Bowl. In 1977, for instance, the Cardinals were ranked 7th in the league in offense, 24th in defense. They were 2d in passing offense, 26th in passing defense. Almost everything they earned, they gave away. During the two years they won the division title, they were once 10th in offense and 17th in defense and once 5th in offense and 18th in defense.

Well, last year the defense finally did better

than the offense. The defense finished 19th in the league; the offense finished 22d. The pass defense finished 20th; the pass offense 25th. That was not exactly the idea. The result showed up in the Cardinals record, 5-11.

For the second year in a row, the Cardinals made a defensive player their No. 1 choice in the draft. Alabama linebacker E.J. Junior followed Michigan defensive end Curtis Greer. The defense may be improving, but it may be too late.

Hart turned 37 years old on the second day of the draft. The Cardinals took Portland State quarterback Neil Lomax in the second round, after contemplating him on the first round. Wide receiver Mel Gray, once Hart's favorite target and the most feared deep threat in the game, will be 33 by the season opener. Even offensive tackle Dan Dierdorf, one of the great blockers of all time, is 32, a ten-year veteran. On defense, their only perennial All-Pro, cornerback Roger Wehrli, will be 34 by season's end. He made only one interception last year.

The Cardinals are happy with a lot of their young players on offense and defense, but this looks more like a rebuilding team than a contender. Nobody admits to rebuilding, of course. Their hope always is that the rebuilding will happen so fast the fans won't notice.

"Going into last season, we had the personnel to win in this league," said coach Jim Hanifan. "The same holds true for 1981. Last year we were unfortunate to suffer early injuries with Terry Stieve, Keith Wortman, Mike Dawson, and Ken Greene, but the type of season we had was a result of other factors."

"One of those other factors is attitude. The coaching staff and myself are trying to impress upon the players the importance of their mental approach to the game. It's an emotional game, but it has to be played with confidence."

As for Hart, he could think about the game while on his butt. Hart was sacked 40 times last year. He was probably thinking about the year he was sacked only eight times, a year that now

1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Anderson, 54 points on 9 touchdowns... T19th
RUSHING—Anderson, 301 carries for 1,352 yards, 4.5 avg., 9 TD's... 2nd
PASSING—Hart, 228 of 425 attempts for 2,946 yards, 16 TD's... 12th
RECEIVING—Tilley, 68 receptions for 966 yards, 14.2 avg., 6 TD's... 5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Stone, 5 for 63 yards, 12.6 avg... 15th
PUNTING—Swider, 99 punts, 41.5 avg., longest 66 yards... 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Green, 16 for 168 yards, 10.5 avg... 1 TD... 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Green, 32 for 745 yards, 23.3 avg... 4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At San Diego (N)
14 At Seattle (N)
22 At Kansas City (N)
29 CHICAGO (N)

1981 SCHEDULE	1980 SCORES
September 6 MIAMI	21-31
13 At Dallas	7-31
20 WASHINGTON	—
27 At Tampa Bay	—
October 4 DALLAS	24-27
11 At NY Giants	23-7
18 At Atlanta	(OT) 27-33
25 MINNESOTA	—
November 1 At Washington	0-23
8 PHILADELPHIA	24-14
15 BUFFALO	—
22 At Baltimore	17-10
29 At New England	—
December 6 NEW ORLEANS	40-7
13 NY GIANTS	35-41
20 At Philadelphia	3-17

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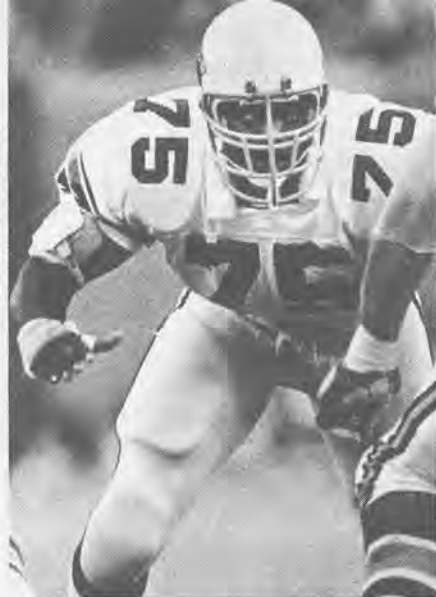
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DE Curtis Greer of the Cardinals

seems like ancient history. Hart will enter his 16th season as the leading active passer in all four major categories—attempts, completions, yards, and touchdowns. Despite missing the final game and a half with a cracked rib, Hart still threw for 2,946 yards last year, the third highest total of his career. His 68.7 passer rating was a considerable improvement over a subpar season in 1979 of 55.2. But Hart's best days are behind him. For the fourth year in a row, he threw more interceptions than touchdown passes, something he didn't do during the Cardinals' best years.

If the Cardinals stumble early, look for Hanifan to hand the reigns to rookie Lomax, the big arm from the small school. Lomax is green around the edges, but he can't be a bad gamble for the team that once made Steve Pisarkiewicz a No. 1 choice. Third-year man Mike Loyd and second-year player Rusty Lisch will be Lomax's only competition.

To underscore a concern at wide receiver, the Cardinals made four of them draft choices, but none before the fourth round. They will have to get lucky before any of them beats out Gray, Pat Tilley, or Dave Stief. The Cardinals would like someone bigger than Tilley or Gray, neither over 5-10, but they can't find anyone better.

Tilley made it to the Pro Bowl last year after leading the NFC in receiving for much of the season before missing the final two games. Described as having "sedulous" work habits, Tilley may have the best pair of hands in the league.

Gray remains the deep threat. His 17.7 yards per catch is below his career average of 20, but still is the highest on the team. Gray caught passes in all 16 games, stretching his streak to 105 games. That ties the second longest streak in NFL history and leaves him 22 games shy of Harold Carmichael's record 127 games.

If the Cardinals opt for more widespread rebuilding, look for Mark Bell to spell Gray. The second-year man showed excellent promise as a rookie before being injured in the sixth game. Dave Stief has the size the Cardinals want and he makes clutch catches, but his speed relegates him to the special teams.

Youth has been served at tight end, where rookie Doug Marsh started all games last year and was capably backed by second-year man Chris Combs. The Cardinals finally feel they have filled the void left by the untimely death of former star J.V. Cain.

The Cards have more running backs than

they know what to do with, a situation that is the envy of most clubs. In St. Louis, they are not used to such luxury. If third-year halfback Ottis Anderson gets 1,000 yards for the third year in a row, he will pass Jim Otis as the Cardinals' all-time leading rusher. Anderson fell 250 yards off his rookie pace last year, but had 30 fewer carries. He is already one of the great ones. He finished behind Tilley and Gray in receiving.

Wayne Morris and Theotis Brown will vie for the starting fullback spot. Either can make a coach happy, but it will not be easy for third-year pro Brown to unseat sixth-year man Morris. Although light for a fullback at 208, Morris has the power to run between the tackles. His reliability was demonstrated by his 117 carries without a single fumble. Brown is bigger and is the team's best receiver coming out of the backfield. Special teams players Will Harrell, Randy Love, and Rod Phillips give Hanifan depth at running back that he rarely has to use.

Hanifan, credited with building the All-Pro Cardinal lines of the middle seventies, is working with only one starter from that era, Dierdorf. That is a good building block. Coming off what doctors called the worst knee injury they had seen, and certainly the biggest, the 280-pound Dierdorf started every game at right tackle and was voted All-Pro.

Because of injuries to others, Dierdorf lined up next to three different guards. Terry Stieve is expected to regain the right-guard spot after injury knocked him out of last year. Tom Brahaney, finally out of the shadow cast by former All-Pro Tom Banks, started every game at center and his 118 consecutive games is the longest active Cardinal streak. Second-year blocker Joe Bostic has played three positions and may settle at left guard. Barney Cotton switched from guard to tackle and found a home. Ron Coder, George Collins, Randy Clark, and Mark Goodspeed provide excellent depth.

Injury hit the defense last year harder than it hit the offense. Six of the starting 11 missed significant parts of the season, including all four linebackers. For that reason, Hanifan is glad to welcome Junior, a 230-pounder who can play inside or outside and is a sure starter. Training camp probably will determine whether outside backers Mark Arneson and Steve Neils or inside starters Tim Kearney or Eric Williams will be moved to make room for Junior. Three other youngsters to be reckoned with are Calvin Favron, Jeff McIntyre, and Charlie Baker.

Two second-year men, Curtis Greer and surprising tenth-rounder Rush Brown, join veteran end Bob Pollard on the line. Another second-year end, Stafford Mays, could challenge Pollard. The return of Mike Dawson will strengthen the middle.

In the secondary, Wehrli starts his 13th season. Whether he finishes it depends again on the Cardinal record. Although he started every game last year, he was taken out of a game for the first time in his career for a reason other than injury.

Left cornerbacks Carl Allen and Tim Collier shared the job and both gave good accounts of themselves. Allen was voted the team's most improved player. If he continues to improve and Collier shows the form that earned five starts for him, they could move Wehrli aside. Another man who has started at cornerback is Lee Nelson, who found a home at strong safety and is a better tackler than coverer.

Ken Greene's blazing start last year (four interceptions in six games) ended with a knee in-

jury in the seventh. It was Greene's first try at free safety and the second should be better. Roy Green and Ken Stone give the Cards experienced depth that a team like the Cowboys would love.

Larry Swider finished fourth in the NFC in punting, averaging 41.5 yards. Neil O'Donoghue made 11 of 15 field goals after joining the team in the seventh game. With Green, Bell, and Harrell returning kicks, the special teams are solid.

If the Cardinals can beat the Redskins, their rebuilding program could be over in a hurry. They have won only one of their last ten meetings and must overcome that psychological barrier before they can move up in the East division standings.

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

NFL									
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college		
67	Acker, Bill	DT	6-2	255	25	2	Texas		
27	Allen, Carl	CB	6-0	186	26	5	So. Miss.		
32	Anderson, Ottis	RB	6-2	215	24	3	Miami		
57	Arneson, Mark	LB	6-2	224	32	10	Arizona		
52	Baker, Charles	LB	6-2	217	24	2	New Mexico		
81	Bell, Mark	WR	5-9	175	24	3	Colorado St.		
71	Bostic, Joe	G	6-3	265	24	3	Clemson		
51	Brahaney, Tom	C	6-2	246	30	9	Oklahoma		
55	Brooks, Jonathan	LB	6-2	215	24	3	Clemson		
69	Brown, Rush	DT	6-2	257	27	2	Ball St.		
33	Brown, Theotis	RB	6-2	225	24	3	UCLA		
64	Clark, Randy	OL	6-3	254	24	2	N. Illinois		
61	Coder, Ron	G	6-4	250	27	5	Penn St.		
44	Collier, Tim	CB	6-0	174	27	6	E. Texas St.		
66	Collins, George	OL	6-2	260	26	4	Georgia		
80	Combs, Chris	TE	6-4	239	23	2	New Mexico		
60	Cotton, Barney	G	6-5	265	25	3	Nebraska		
54	Criswell, Kirby	LB	6-5	238	24	2	Kansas		
73	Dawson, Mike	DT	6-4	275	28	6	Arizona		
72	Dierdorf, Dan	T	6-3	288	32	11	Michigan		
59	Favron, Calvin	LB	6-1	225	24	3	S.E. La.		
70	Goodspeed, Mark	T	6-5	270	25	2	Nebraska		
85	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	173	33	11	Missouri		
25	Green, Roy	S	5-11	190	24	3	Henderson		
37	Greene, Ken	S	6-3	203	25	4	Wash. St.		
75	Greer, Curtis	DE	6-4	252	24	2	Michigan		
39	Harrell, Willard	RB	5-8	182	29	7	Pacific		
17	Hart, Jim	QB	6-1	210	37	16	So. Illinois		
56	Kearney, Tim	LB	6-2	224	31	10	No. Michigan		
46	Lee, Jeff	WR	6-2	195	26	2	Nebraska		
74	Lee, Oudious	DT	6-1	253	25	1	Nebraska		
16	Lisch, Rusty	QB	6-3	213	25	2	Notre Dame		
40	Love, Randy	RB	6-1	205	25	3	Houston		
14	Loyd, Mike	QB	6-2	216	25	3	Missouri St.		
87	Marsh, Doug	TE	6-3	236	23	2	Michigan		
76	Mays, Stafford	DE	6-2	242	23	2	Washington		
50	McIntyre, Jeff	LB	6-3	232	26	4	Arizona St.		
24	Morris, Wayne	RB	6-0	208	27	6	SMU		
53	Neils, Steve	LB	6-2	218	30	8	Minnesota		
38	Nelson, Lee	DB	5-10	185	27	6	Fia. St.		
11	O'Donoghue, Neil	PK	6-6	210	28	5	Auburn		
36	Phillips, Rod	RB	6-0	221	29	7	Jackson St.		
82	Pollard, Bob	DE	6-3	252	33	11	Weber St.		
58	Seabron, Thomas	LB	6-3	215	24	2	Michigan		
84	Stief, Dave	WR	6-3	195	25	4	Portland St.		
68	Stieve, Terry	G	6-2	265	27	6	Wisconsin		
23	Stone, Ken	S	6-1	180	31	9	Vanderbilt		
10	Swider, Larry	P	6-2	195	26	3	Pittsburgh		
83	Tilley, Pat	WR	5-10	175	28	6	La. Tech		
22	Wehrli, Roger	CB	6-0	193	34	13	Missouri		
55	Williams, Eric	LB	6-2	225	26	5	USC		
62	Wortman, Keith	T	6-2	275	31	10	Nebraska		
78	Yankowski, Ron	DE	6-5	260	25	11	Kansas St.		

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Junior, E.J.	LB	6-3	237	22	Alabama
2	Lomax, Neil	QB	6-3	215	22	Portland St.
3	Griffin, Jeff	DB	6-0	185	23	Utah
4	Rhodes, Steve	WR	6-0	191	24	Oklahoma
5	Gillen, John	LB	6-3	227	23	Illinois
6	Ahrens, Dave	LB	6-3	228	23	Wisconsin
7	Donnalley, Kevin	DB	6-0	178	23	N. Dakota St.
8	Fisher, Mike	WR	5-11	172	23	Baylor
9	Mitchell, Stump	RB	5-9	188	22	Citadel
10	Mallard, James	WR	6-2	185	24	Alabama
10	Joiner, Jim	WR	6-2	195	22	Miami
11	Sherrod, Mike	TE	6-6	236	23	Illinois
12	Adams, Joe	OG	6-5	240	24	Nebraska

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NFC West

ATLANTA FALCONS

The Atlanta Falcons may well have been the best team in the NFC last year. There were astute observers saying so even as the Falcons were losing to Dallas in the playoffs. This was a club that had arrived. Even though it fielded the second-youngest team in the league, it was big, strong, and mature in the right places. One of those places was quarterback, where Steve Bartkowski threw more touchdown passes (31) than anyone else in the NFL.

This clearly was the team of the future and the future appeared to be now. The loss to Dallas only postponed greatness. That is the Falcons' challenge in 1981. They hope it does not become their curse. Has this team arrived for real? Or did it just make another short visit as it did in 1978, only to discover the euphoria of the playoffs was premature? No one picked the Falcons to do much in 1980. Everyone picks the Falcons to do much in 1981. Coach Leeman Bennett can't win unless he wins.

There are some compelling facts in the Falcons' favor. In an era of offense, they may have the most dangerous offense in the league. Although San Diego and Los Angeles finished ahead of them in total yardage, no team in football balanced running and passing as well as the Falcons. They were the only club to finish in the top ten in both categories. This was rapid improvement by a club that finished 16th in rushing and 15th in passing in 1979 and even lower (27th in rushing, 16th in passing) in 1978, the Falcons' first playoff year.

The Falcons expect to win in 1981; in 1979, they just hoped to win. In 1979, a disenchanted Falcon fan put two tickets to a game under a windshield wiper of his car, hoping someone would steal them. When he returned, he found four more tickets under the wiper.

In 1981, the Falcons report a record high season-ticket renewal of 98.7 percent. Much of their dramatic improvement over the last two seasons is a tribute to the drafts of player personnel director Tom Braatz. Three starters came from the 1979 draft and four more from the 1980 draft, which makes everyone look closely at Atlanta's 1981 draft.

"The chances of finding four starters as we did last season are remote," says general manager Eddie LeBaron. "However, we feel that we filled some needs that were priorities in improving our team." First was cornerback and

the Falcons were happy to grab Florida State's Bobby Butler with the 25th pick in round one, even though critics claimed Butler was skinnier than water on a platter. If Butler can't do it, the Falcons took four other defensive backs who might provide help where it is most needed. The Falcons were 25th in pass defense last year and they couldn't blame their pass rush or their linebackers. They finished third in the league in defense against the run, so their problems are pretty much isolated. They could be solved if Butler or one of the other draftees provides the kind of immediate help the Falcons have grown to expect.

Of course, Bartkowski remains the key figure in any Atlanta success story regardless of defensive performance. The seventh-year pro, the last quarterback drafted first in the country, is coming off his finest season by far. He was voted the NFC Pro Bowl starter last year even though Philadelphia's Ron Jaworski and Los Angeles's Vince Ferragamo finished ahead of him in passer rating. The total of 31 touchdown passes in 1980 is the most telling evidence of his improvement. In five previous seasons, Bartkowski had thrown a total of 47 touchdown passes. He threw just 16 interceptions, the first time he had thrown more touchdown passes than interceptions. At one point, he threw a club record 118 passes without an interception.

"Steve had a great season in every respect," said Bennett. "He did not play a bad game during the entire season, and kept his mistakes to a minimum. Much credit should go to him, but credit also goes to the people around him."

Bartkowski has so many people around him he knew exactly what to do with them. He completed 57 passes to wide receiver Alfred Jenkins, 54 to wide receiver Wallace Francis, 46 to tight end Junior Miller, and 51 to fullback William Andrews. Talk about keeping everybody happy. Who does a defense cover?

Jenkins has a 72-game reception streak as he heads into his seventh season. He has talked of it being his last. He is also coming off a team record 1,025-yard season. But his six touchdown catches put him only fourth on Bartkowski's list. Francis caught seven TD passes and enters the ninth year of a career that has shown almost constant improvement. Every good passing attack needs a talented third wide receiver and the Falcons have one of the best in Alfred Jackson. How does Bartkowski make him happy? He caught only 23 passes last year, but seven of them ended in the end zone.

If there was one man who enabled the Falcons to put their passing attack all together, it was rookie tight end Miller. The 6-4, 235-pounder who looks and plays even bigger set a team record with nine touchdown catches. Miller has the strength and deep speed to be the Russ Francis or Dave Casper of the 1980's.

Bartkowski and his receivers appear to be all a normal offensive coordinator could want. Add the most productive pair of running backs in the league and you see why the Falcons become a

defensive coordinator's nightmare. Besides catching 51 passes for 456 yards, Andrews found time to run for 1,308 yards. It was his second 1,000-yard season in two years. His 4.9 yards per carry put him ahead of Walter Payton, Ottis Anderson, Billy Sims, and Tony Dorsett. Only Earl Campbell's 5.2-yard average surpassed Andrews' among the league's top producers. And Andrews is a fullback, arguably the best in football. How halfback Lynn Cain, like Andrews entering his third season, ever gained 914 yards in this offense is a mystery.

"There was great unselfishness on the offense," said Bennett, "but the key was the play of the offensive line. Nothing is possible on offense if the line does not play well. With only a couple of exceptions, our line played super throughout the season."

The line even set a couple of mind-boggling statistics of its own. Left tackle Mike Kenn, who will be entering his fourth year, played the whole year without being called for a single penalty. The question is how he made the Pro Bowl without getting his name blared over the loudspeaker. In Kenn's second season, he was whistled for only three penalties. He played every down in those two years and is now recognized as one of the game's greats. At 6-6, 257, he also is one of the smaller blockers on the Falcon front. At right tackle is 6-6, 270 Warren Bryant. Next to Kenn at left guard is 6-4, 265 Dave Scott. Right guard R.C. Thielemann (6-4, 250) and veteran center Jeff Van Note (6-2, 250) are the midgets of the line.

1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Mazzetti, 103 points on 19 field goals and 46 PAT's... 2nd
RUSHING—Andrews, 265 carries for 1,308 yards, 4.9 avg., 4 TD's... 3rd
PASSING—Bartkowski, 257 of 463 attempts for 3,544 yards, 31 TD's... 3rd
RECEIVING—Jenkins, 57 receptions for 1,026 yards, 18.0 avg., 6 TD's... 11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Richardson, 7 for 139 yards, 19.9 avg... 2nd
PUNTING—James, 79 punts, 39.1 avg., longest 59 yards... 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Johnson, 23 for 281 yards, 12.2 avg... 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Smith, 25 for 512 yards, 20.5 avg... 13th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 1 Cleveland (Hall of Fame game at Canton)
8 At Oakland (N)
15 NY JETS (N)
22 At Minnesota (N)
28 TAMPA BAY (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 NEW ORLEANS	31-13
	13 At Green Bay	—
	20 SAN FRANCISCO	35-10
	27 At Cleveland	—
October	5 At Philadelphia (N)	20-17
	11 LOS ANGELES	13-10
	18 ST. LOUIS	(OT) 33-27
	25 NY GIANTS	—
November	1 At New Orleans	41-14
	8 At San Francisco	20-17
	15 PITTSBURGH	—
	23 MINNESOTA (N)	23-24
	29 At Houston	—
December	6 At Tampa Bay	—
	14 At Los Angeles (N)	(OT) 17-20
	20 CINCINNATI	—

Falcons' coach Leeman Bennett





Quarterback Steve Bartkowski and fullback William Andrews give Atlanta fans reason for optimism in 1981.

After Van Note, entering his 13th and final year, the oldest of the blockers is Scott, who starts his sixth season. In round four of the draft, the Falcons were happy to pick up a possible successor to Van Note in Notre Dame's John Scully. The line gave up only 35 sacks, not bad for the immobile Bartkowski, who went down 54 times the year before. Depth on offense is good on the line with veterans Phil McKinnely and Pat Howell, but it could be improved at other positions, especially quarterback. Behind Bartkowski, the Falcons have only Mike Moroski, who has thrown 18 passes in two

years, and free agents Larry Fortner and June Jones. Reserve running backs James Mayberry and Ray Strong got only 24 carries between them last year and tight end Russ Mikeska caught only one pass.

"We were relatively injury free throughout the season," said Bennett. That will be important again in 1981.

If experience means anything, the Falcons' defense can't help but improve in 1981. It improved remarkably in 1980 even though four rookies were starting by the end of the year. Led by two of those rookies, linebackers Buddy Curry and Al Richardson, and by second-year linebacker Joel Williams, the Falcons allowed only 272 points (fifth in the NFL) after giving up 388 points in 1979. Richardson, an eighth-round draft choice, led the league's linebackers with seven interceptions. Williams, a waiver pickup, made an astounding 16 quarterback sacks from his blitzing weak-side spot. Veteran Fulton Kuykendall and Curry fill the inside spots admirably and when Kuykendall got hurt last year, another rookie, Jim Laughlin, replaced him with flying colors. Despite the depth at linebacker, the Falcons couldn't pass up LSU's Lyman White on the second round of the draft. They compare him to Williams.

The pass rush up front needs improvement, but was not shabby last year with ends Jeff Merrow and Jeff Yeates flanking nose tackle Don Smith. Yeates has shoulder problems and could be pushed this year by Matthew Teague, a promising pass rusher who spent last year on injured reserve after being obtained in the supplemental draft. Yeates is a valuable cog in the Falcons' defense against the rush. Veterans Wilson Faumuina and Edgar Fields could be pushed for backup spots by sixth-round draft choice Harry Stanback.

Bennett says the key to his defense is the swarming technique preached by coordinator Jerry Glanville.

"We still need to improve our pass rush from the defensive line and improve our coverage in the secondary, but, overall, I thought the defensive progress was remarkable," said Bennett.

The secondary is where the rookies will make a primary contribution in 1981. Butler is expected to move right in, perhaps for veteran Rolland Lawrence on the left side. Entering his ninth year, Lawrence has felt some heat since his Pro Bowl year of 1977. After five years in a row of intercepting at least six passes, Lawrence intercepted only three last year.

Second-year man Earl Jones could be a factor in the cornerback derby. Another second-year man, Kenny Johnson, started at right corner all last year, but the Falcons would prefer him to play safety. Third draft choice Scott Woerner of Georgia will be the local favorite to earn a safety job. Bob Glazebrook and Tom Pridemore were last year's starters, but neither is guaranteed a job this year. Later draftees Cliff Toney, Robert Murphy, and Mark McCants will vie for roster spots.

Johnson led the NFC in punt returns, but the Falcons need improvement from 5-4 Reggie Smith on kickoff returns. John James had an off year punting. He usually is among the leaders. Tim Mazzetti finished fifth among league kickers in scoring, hitting 19 of 27 field goals and 46 of 49 extra points.

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
33	Anderson, Anthony	RB	6-0	197	25	3	Temple
31	Andrews, William	RB	6-0	200	26	3	Auburn
10	Bartkowski, Steve	QB	6-4	213	29	7	California
44	Bean, Bubba	RB	5-11	195	27	4	Texas A&M
66	Bryant, Warren	T	6-6	270	26	5	Kentucky
38	Byas, Rick	DB	5-9	180	31	8	Wayne St.
21	Cain, Lynn	RB	5-1	205	26	3	Southern Cal.
53	Correal, Chuck	C	6-3	247	25	3	Penn. St.
50	Curry, Buddy	LB	6-3	221	23	2	No. Carolina
55	Daykin, Tony	LB	6-1	215	26	5	Georgia Tech
74	Faumuina, Wilson	DT	6-5	275	27	5	San Jose St.
77	Fields, Edgar	DT	6-2	255	27	5	Texas A&M
9	Fortner, Larry	QB	6-4	212	26	2	Miami-Ohio
89	Francis, Wallace	WR	5-11	190	30	9	Pine Bluff
36	Glazebrook, Bob	DB	6-1	200	25	4	Fresno St.
63	Herman, Chuck	G	6-3	250	23	2	Arkansas
40	Higgins, Michael	RB	6-1	200	24	1	Kansas
64	Howell, Pat	G	6-5	253	24	3	Southern Cal.
85	Jackson, Alfred	WR	5-11	176	26	4	Texas
6	James, John	P	6-3	200	32	10	Florida
84	Jenkins, Alfred	WR	5-10	172	29	7	Morris Brown
37	Johnson, Kenny	S	5-10	176	23	2	Miss. St.
20	Jones, Earl	CB	6-0	178	24	2	Norfolk St.
14	Jones, June	DB	6-4	200	28	4	Portland St.
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-6	257	25	4	Michigan
54	Kuykendall, Fulton	LB	6-5	225	28	7	UCLA
11	Laughlin, Jim	LB	6-0	212	23	2	Ohio St.
22	Lawrence, Rolland	CB	5-10	179	30	9	Tabor
39	Mayberry, James	RB	5-11	210	24	3	Colorado
4	Mazzetti, Tim	K	6-1	175	25	4	Pennsylvania
52	McClain, Dewey	LB	6-3	236	27	6	E. Cent. Okla.
26	McDougald, James	RB	5-9	200	25	1	Wake Forest
73	McKinnely, Phil	T	6-4	248	27	6	UCLA
75	Merrow, Jeff	DE	6-4	230	28	7	West Virginia
87	Mikeska, Russ	TE	6-3	225	26	3	Texas A&M
80	Miller, Junior	TE	6-4	235	24	2	Nebraska
15	Moroski, Mike	QB	6-4	200	24	3	Cal-Davis
81	Pearson, Dennis	WR	5-11	177	26	3	San Diego St.
59	Pennywell, Robert	LB	6-1	222	27	6	Grambling
27	Pridemore, Tom	S	5-10	186	25	4	W. Virginia
28	Reed, Frank	CB	5-11	193	27	6	Washington
56	Richardson, Al	LB	6-2	206	24	2	Georgia Tech
82	Ryckman, Billy	WR	5-11	172	26	4	La. Tech
70	Scott, Dave	G	6-4	265	28	6	Kansas
65	Smith, Don	DE	6-5	248	24	3	Miami
86	Smith, Mike	WR	5-10	194	23	2	Grambling
16	Smith, Reggie	WR	5-4	168	25	2	N.C. Central
25	Strong, Ray	RB	5-9	184	25	4	N/Las Vegas
72	Teague, Matthew	DE	6-5	240	23	1	Prairie View
68	Thielemann, R.C.	G	6-4	247	26	5	Arkansas
57	Van Note, Jeff	C	6-2	247	35	13	Kentucky
58	Williams, Joel	LB	6-0	215	25	3	Wis/LaCrosse
79	Yeates, Jeff	DT	6-3	248	30	10	Boston Coll.
63	Zelev, Mike	DT	6-3	236	25	3	Kent State

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Butler, Bobby	DB	5-11	170	22	Florida St.
2	White, Lyman	LB	6-0	217	22	LSU
3	Woerner, Scott	DB	6-0	195	23	Georgia
4	Scully, John	C	6-5	255	23	Notre Dame
5	Sanders, Eric	DT	6-6	255	23	Reno
6	Stanback, Harry	DT	6-5	255	23	N. Carolina
7	Teague, Matthew	DE	6-5	240	23	Prairie View
8	Toney, Cliff	DB	5-11	185	23	Auburn
9	Fance, Calvin	RB	6-1	200	22	Rice
10	Murphy, Robert	DB	6-1	198	23	Ohio St.
11	Chappelle, Keith	WR	6-0	178	21	Iowa
12	McCants, Mark	DB	6-0	190	23	Temple

Atlanta Falcons (clockwise from top): kicker Tim Mazzetti and OT Mike Kenn, center Jeff Van Note, TE Junior Miller, draftee Scott Woerner, LB's Buddy Curry and Al Richardson, and OT Warren Bryant





"The foundation is solid for a good football team for many years," said Bennett. "Winning the NFC West title was a big hurdle, but not the ultimate goal of our organization."

LOS ANGELES RAMS

The only thing stable about the Los Angeles, er Anaheim Rams, is they win. Under coach Chuck Knox, er George, no Ray Malavasi, the only thing certain about them is they will be among the league leaders in everything they do—run, pass, tackle, intercept, hold out, or jump to Canada. The penchant for the bizarre, the unpredictable, the constant distraction seems to be some kind of diabolical master plan of owner Carroll-Steve-Georgia Rosenbloom, make that Georgia Frontiere, please.

This is football at its absolute soap opera best. The Rams should play on weekday afternoons. As *the World Turns* wouldn't have a chance in the ratings. If they were a run-of-the-mill soap opera, such as the New Orleans Saints of New York Giants or Detroit Lions, there would be little interest. But the Rams win. They are a good team. They are living proof that all the stuff general managers preach, such as unity and camaraderie and maturity and cohesiveness and five-year plans, is so much hogwash. If you have good players, you win. It doesn't matter if the players are happy, sad, rich, poor, healthy, or hurt. If you employ enough good players, you win.

Let's see, what about the 1981 Rams?

They have Vince Ferragamo, make that Pat Haden, at quarterback. This year he's throwing to Harold Jackson and Ron Jessie; no, it must be Willie Miller and Ron Smith. Wrong again, this year it's Preston Dennard and Billy Waddy.

The running backs are Lawrence McCutcheon and John Cappelletti. No, that was three years ago. It's Wendell Tyler and Cullen Bryant. No, that was two years ago. It's Elvis Peacock and Bryant. No, that was at the beginning of last year. By the end, it was Jewel Thomas and Bryant. And the Rams led the league in rushing.

Tom Mack is the perennial All-Pro guard. No, Dennis Harrah is the perennial All-Pro guard. What? You say Kent Hill is the latest perennial All-Pro guard?

Isiah Robertson is the first-round draft choice at outside linebacker. No, Bob Brudzinski is the first-round draft choice at outside linebacker. He left? Oh, put in George Andrews in 1981, another first-round draft choice at outside linebacker. While you're at it, draft another linebacker in the first round, Mel Owens.

All-Pro Monte Jackson plays one cornerback. No, make that All-Pro Pat Thomas and All-Pro Rod Perry open at both corners. Free safety Billy Simpson leads the club in interceptions. No, free safety Nolan Cromwell leads the NFC in interceptions. And at strong safety, veteran Dave Elmendorf, make that No. 1 draft choice Johnnie Johnson.

Someday, someone is finally going to realize that the key to the year-in, year-out success of the Los Angeles Rams is center Rich Saul. It has to be. He's the only one there, year after year, play after play. When he leaves, there is no doubt the Rams will slide into the ocean.

There is another man who deserves credit: general manager Don Klosterman. Klosterman seems to survive everything. He has survived changes in owners and cities and coaches. He has survived irate players who claim to be underpaid. Mostly, he has avoided poor drafts. The Rams' record of wheeling and dealing draft

choices and making good picks is unrivaled in recent years. It is little wonder the Rams were able to shake off the loss of Ferragamo to the Canadian Football League last spring.

"We've won with Pat Haden before and we'll win with him again. He can take us to the Super Bowl," boasted Malavasi.

One suspects the private thoughts of the Ram heirarchy are less enthusiastic. After all, Ferragamo did take the Rams to their only Super Bowl. Ferragamo had the league's third highest passer rating last year. His 30 touchdown passes tied him for second in the league.

1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Corral, 99 points on 16 field goals and 51 PAT's... 3rd
RUSHING—Bryant, 183 carries for 807 yards, 4.4 avg., 3 TD's... 9th
PASSING—Ferragamo, 240 of 404 attempts for 3,199 yards, 30 TD's... 2nd
RECEIVING—Bryant, 53 receptions for 386 yards, 7.3 avg., 3 TD's... 7th
INTERCEPTIONS—Cromwell, 8 for 140 yards, 17.5 avg., 1 TD... 1st
PUNTING—Corral, 76 punts, 39.5 avg., longest 65 yards... 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Irvin, 42 for 296 yards, 7.0 avg... 16th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hill, 43 for 880 yards, 20.5 avg... 1 TD... 14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 10 NEW ENGLAND (N)
15 DALLAS (N)
21 At San Diego (N)
27 MINNESOTA (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

Month	Game	Score
September	6 HOUSTON	27-7
	13 At New Orleans	51-21
	20 GREEN BAY	28-14
October	28 At Chicago (N)	10-13
	4 CLEVELAND	38-14
	11 At Atlanta	31-17
November	18 At Dallas (N)	20-41
	25 At San Francisco	45-31
	1 DETROIT	48-26
December	8 NEW ORLEANS	28-7
	15 At Cincinnati	20-17
	22 SAN FRANCISCO	20-17 (OT)
	29 At Pittsburgh	21-17
	6 At NY Giants	20-17
	14 ATLANTA (N)	20-17
	21 WASHINGTON	20-17

His regular-season record over two years was 15-5. His big arm accounted for 12 pass plays of 40 yards or more to tie Cleveland's Brian Sipe for the NFL lead in that category.

True, Haden compiled impressive statistics as a Rams' starter, too. His regular-season record is 30-13-1. But Haden's fragile health gave Ferragamo his chance. Haden has broken a bone in his passing hand on three different occasions, including the league opener against Detroit last year. If Haden goes down for the third year in a row, the only backups are veteran Bob Lee and youngster Jeff Rutledge. The Rams must have some of the confidence they say they have, because they ignored the quarterback position entirely in the draft on the day after Ferragamo jumped.

To be sure, the Rams rely on more than a quarterback. Their concept of offense, directed by coordinator Lionel Taylor, must get a lot of credit. And don't forget the blocking of the best line in football. Despite Ferragamo's passing, the Rams still led the league in rushing plays with 615 and were the league's best ball control team, averaging 33 minutes and 15 seconds of offense per 60-minute game.

The catalyst is fullback Cullen Bryant, coming off his best year, 807 yards. Bryant also led the Rams in receiving with 53 catches. He fumbled only once while handling the ball 236



RAMS VETERAN

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	NFL college
52	Andrews, George	LB	6-3	223	26	3	Nebraska
84	Arnold, Walt	TE	6-3	225	23	2	New Mexico
62	Bain, Bill	G	6-4	277	29	7	USC
90	Brooks, Larry	DT	6-3	253	31	10	Va. State
32	Bryant, Cullen	FB	6-1	236	30	9	Colorado
	Childs, Henry	TE	6-2	220	30	8	Kansas St.
3	Corral, Frank	K-P	6-2	228	26	4	UCLA
21	Cromwell, Nolan	S	6-1	198	26	5	Kansas
41	Delaney, Jeff	S	6-0	195	25	2	Pittsburgh
88	Dennard, Preston	WR	6-1	183	26	4	New Mexico
71	Doss, Reggie	DE	6-4	267	25	4	Hampton Inst.
89	Dryer, Fred	DE	6-6	231	35	13	San Diego St.
55	Ekern, Carl	LB	6-3	223	27	5	San Jose St.
79	Fanning, Mike	DT	6-6	252	28	7	Notre Dame
77	France, Doug	T	6-5	270	28	7	Ohio State
44	Guman, Mike	FB	6-2	210	23	2	Penn State
11	Haden, Pat	QB	5-11	185	28	6	USC
9	Hare, Eddie	P	6-4	209	24	2	Tulsa
60	Harrah, Dennis	G	6-5	255	28	7	Miami
51	Harris, Joe	LB	6-1	224	29	6	Georgia Tech
81	Hicks, Victor	TE	6-3	250	24	2	Oklahoma
87	Hill, Drew	WR	KR	5-9	170	25	Georgia Tech
24	Hill, Eddie	FB	6-2	210	24	3	Memphis St.
72	Hill, Kent	G	6-5	260	24	3	Georgia Tech
63	Horton, Greg	G-C	6-4	248	30	7	Colorado
47	Irvine, LeRoy	CB	PR	5-11	180	24	Kansas
20	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	185	25	2	Texas
76	Jones, Cody	DT	6-5	244	30	7	San Jose St.
19	Lee, Bob	QB	6-2	190	35	13	Pacific
54	McGlasston, Ed	C	6-4	260	25	3	Youngstown
82	Miller, Willie	WR	5-9	172	31	6	Colorado St.
86	Moore, Jeff	WR	6-1	200	24	2	Tennessee
95	Murphy, Phil	DT	6-5	280	24	2	So. Car. St.
83	Nelson, Terry	TE	6-2	240	30	8	Pine Bluff
75	Pankey, Irv	T	6-4	269	23	2	Penn State
34	Peacock, Elvis	HB	6-1	208	25	-3	Oklahoma
49	Perry, Rod	CB	5-9	182	28	7	Colorado
8	Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6-2	202	24	3	Alabama
61	Saul, Rich	C	6-3	245	33	12	Michigan St.
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	271	27	6	Jackson St.
56	Smith, Doug	C-G	6-3	255	25	4	Bowling Green
23	Smith, Lucious	CB	5-10	190	24	2	Fullerton
37	Sully, Ivory	S	6-0	193	24	3	Delaware
33	Thomas, Jewell	HB	5-10	223	24	2	San Jose St.
27	Thomas, Pat	CB	5-9	182	27	6	Texas A&M
26	Tyler, Wendell	HB	5-10	195	26	4	UCLA
80	Waddy, Billy	WR	5-11	188	27	5	Colorado
57	Westbrooks, Greg	LB	6-3	220	28	7	Colorado
85	Youngblood, Jack	DE	6-4	244	31	11	Florida
53	Youngblood, Jim	LB	6-3	231	31	9	Tenn. Tech.

DRAFTIES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Owens, Mel	LB	6-2	230	23	Michigan
2	Collins, Jim	LB	6-2	230	23	Syracuse
3	Meisner, Greg	DT	6-3	250	22	Pittsburgh
3	Cobb, Bob	DE	6-4	248	24	Arizona
4	Lilja, George	OC	6-4	250	23	Michigan
6	Daniels, William	DL	6-3	250	23	Alabama St.
7	Battle, Ron	TE	6-3	220	22	N. Texas St.
7	Clark, Mike	DE	6-4	240	22	Florida
9	Plunkett, Art	OT	6-7	260	22	Las Vegas
9	Seawell, Ron	LB	6-1	220	22	Portland St.
10	Alexander, Robert	RB	6-0	185	23	W. Virginia
11	Greene, Marcellus	DB	5-11	180	24	Arizona
12	Penaranda, Jairo	FB	5-11	208	23	UCLA

times. Five different players saw action at half-back opposite Bryant. Although Malavasi would love to see 1979 leader Tyler return from hip and elbow injuries, it doesn't seem to matter who lines up. Peacock ran for 777 yards until his second knee injury sidelined him. His career is dotted with bad luck. Second-year back Thomas provides speed and power and could move ahead of everyone. He averaged 8.3 yards a carry in his two starts at halfback after moving from fullback. Mike Guman, also a second-year man, rushed for 410 yards from both spots.

The Rams like to use different receivers for different purposes. The statistics of starters Waddy and Dennard are nearly identical. Both have youth and speed on their side. Veteran Miller caught only 22 passes, but 8 went for touchdowns. Drew Hill averaged a whopping 21.9 yards on 19 catches.

"We're in pretty good shape at wide receiver," says Malavasi.

At tight end, the Rams lost veteran Terry Nelson for almost the whole 1980 season, leaving the job to two rookies. As usual, the subs responded. Victor Hicks caught 23 passes for 318 yards and 3 touchdowns and Walt Arnold gained enough experience behind him to become a 1981 factor. The Rams also traded for veteran tight end Henry Childs, whose talent and disruptive personality will fit right in.

The real secret to the Rams' offense did revolve around Saul and it was no secret at all: if the line is moving, so is the ball. Saul, guards Dennis Harrah and Kent Hill, and tackle Doug France all have been to the Pro Bowl. That is amazing for one club, but what is even more amazing is the one man who hasn't been to the Pro Bowl, right tackle Jackie Slater, may be the best blocker of them all.

Saul, in his 12th season, is the only starter in his thirties. Typically, the Rams have veteran Doug Smith and rookie George Lilja in the wings to replace him. If France has lingering shoulder problems, Irv Pankey has proved a valuable reserve. Hill may be the fastest lineman in the league. In addition to paving the way for 6,006 total yards, the Rams' front allowed just 29 sacks of its quarterback.

"There is no doubt that the offensive line has become one of the strongest points of our team," said Malavasi. "A lot of the credit should go to Rich Saul and his leadership. I'm happy he is returning for another year."

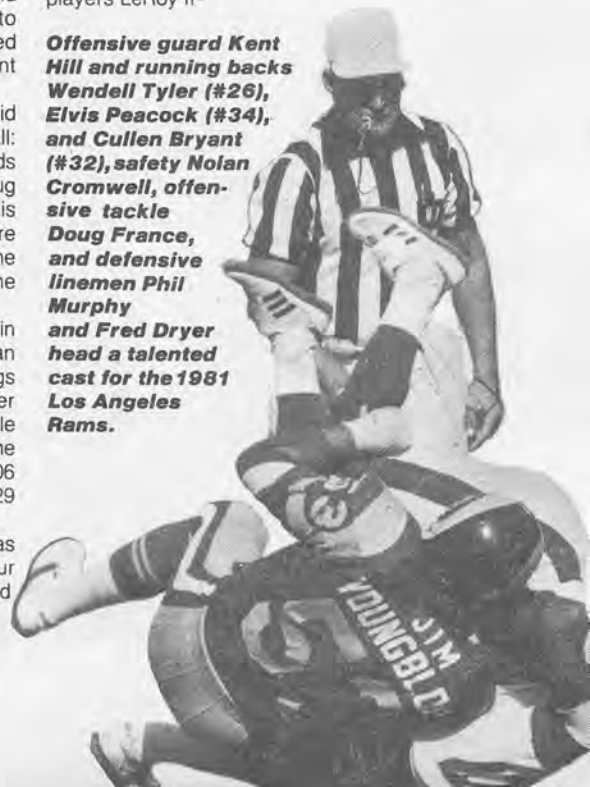
The Rams' defensive line appears to be cause for concern. It looked past its prime last year when Jack Youngblood and Larry Brooks held out and Fred Dryer reached the age of 33. So all the line did was help the team finish fourth in total defense in the league. They were fourth against the rush and second against the pass in the NFC. They recorded 56 sacks, best in the NFC and second only to San Diego. Of the 56, defensive linemen recorded 46, indicating the club was not living by the blitz.

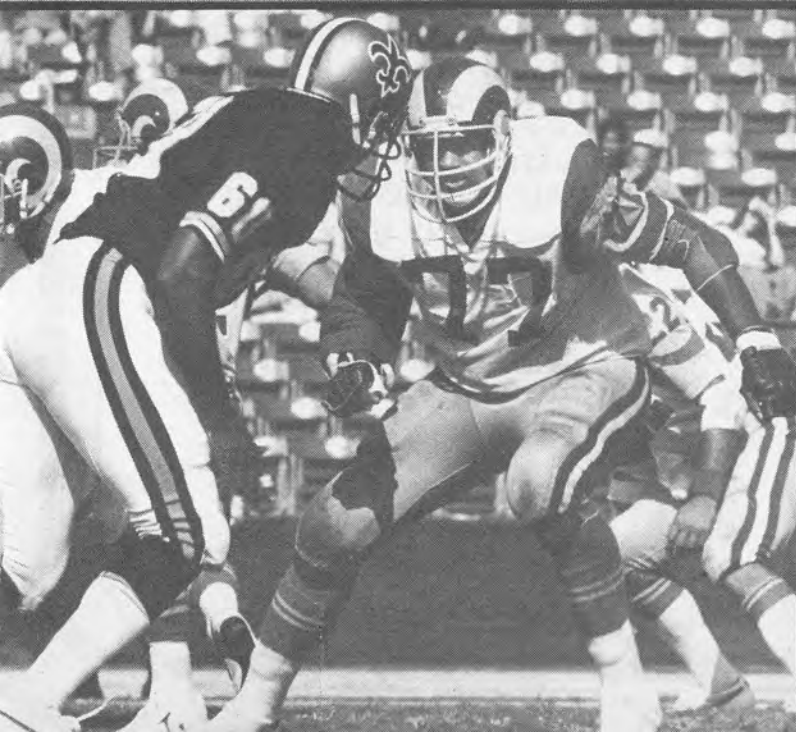
Jack Youngblood had 11 sacks. Tackle Mike Fanning, who played plenty behind Brooks and Cody Jones, had 10. He will get even more playing time this year. All four starters plus Fanning have had physical problems recently and the first five all are in at least their seventh year. That means young Reggie Doss and Phil Murphy will get the chance to show something. It is also the reason the Rams drafted four defensive linemen in rounds three through seven. Third-rounders Greg Meisner of Pitt and Robert Cobb of Arizona are the top prospects.

Linebacking was an even greater priority in the draft. The Rams wanted someone to replace Brudzinski so badly they made Owens the fourth linebacker taken in the first nine picks. That is what is called drafting for need. On the second round, they grabbed Syracuse's Jim Collins. Although George Andrews has filled in well for the departed Brudzinski at right linebacker, the Rams need to replace middle linebacker Jack Reynolds. Owens or Collins will get a chance at Reynolds's job, as will veteran Carl Ekern. Collins has more experience than Owens in the middle. Jim Youngblood, 31, is coming off a so-so season after skipping the 1980 training camp, but appears to be solid at left linebacker for another year. Veteran Joe Harris played well in nickel situations.

The defensive backfield gives Malavasi as much reason to smile as the offensive line. It may be the best foursome in football when healthy. Cornerbacks Perry and Thomas are so much alike that Pro Bowl voters cannot separate them. They both have been voted to the squad twice: in 1978 and 1980. At 5-9, 182 apiece, they are prone to injury, and Thomas is coming off one. Second-year players LeRoy Ir-

Offensive guard Kent Hill and running backs Wendell Tyler (#26), Elvis Peacock (#34), and Cullen Bryant (#32), safety Nolan Cromwell, offensive tackle Doug France, and defensive linemen Phil Murphy and Fred Dryer head a talented cast for the 1981 Los Angeles Rams.





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Giants (+11) 38, Dallas 35
Detroit (+2½) 9, Baltimore 10
N.Y. Jets (+6½) 31, Houston 28
Baltimore (+3½) 28, Buffalo 24
San Fran (+7½) 21, New Eng. 17
Wash. (+6½) 40, San Diego 17
Kansas City (+8) 16, Pittsburg 21

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vin and Lucious Smith both show promise at the corner. Free safety Cromwell was voted defensive player of the year in the NFC by UPI. Strong safety Johnson, whose \$1.1 million, six-year contract caused morale problems on the rest of the club, proved worth it with an outstanding season.

The Rams intercepted 25 passes and returned them 546 yards for four touchdowns, another league high. They had the best third-down defense in the NFL. Opponents made a first down 30.4 percent of their third-down opportunities, compared to a league average of 41.5.

On special teams, the Rams could improve. Frank Corral was the league's only punter/place-kicker. He averaged 39.5 punting and his field-goal range fell off. He didn't get much help from his snappers or blockers. Kickoff returner Drew Hill and punt returner LeRoy Irvin started 1980 among the league leaders, but dropped off.

Last year, Brooks, Harrah, and the Youngbloods skipped training camp entirely and Brudzinski walked out. The Rams lost their first two games and even an 11-3 finish couldn't save them. This year, the disruptions came earlier with the defection of Ferragamo. But there is simply too much talent for a finish lower than second place.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

Bill Walsh is an NFL owner's dream. The coach of the San Francisco 49ers loves to see completed passes. Owners love to see completed passes because fans love to see completed passes, and if there is anything owners love more than completed passes it is fans.

Completed passes provide good entertainment. Good entertainment draws fans. Fans bring money. So you lose a game 48-26, maybe you win one 38-35. Either way, more fans go home happy than sad. And they come back.

1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Wersching, 78 points on 15 field goals and 33 PAT's... 10th
 RUSHING—Cooper, 171 carries for 720 yards, 4.2 avg., 5 TD's... 13th
 PASSING—Montana, 176 of 273 attempts for 1,795 yards, 15 TD's... 4th
 RECEIVING—Cooper, 83 receptions for 567 yards, 6.8 avg., 4 TD's... 1st
 INTERCEPTIONS—Hicks, 4 for 73 yards, 18.3 avg., 20th
 PUNTING—Miller, 77 punts, 40.9 avg., longest 65 yards... 5th
 PUNT RETURNS—Solomon, 27 for 298 yards, 11.0 avg., 2 TD's... 2nd
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Owens, 31 for 726 yards, 23.4 avg., 1 TD... 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 At Seattle (N)
 15 SAN DIEGO (N)
 22 SEATTLE (N)
 29 At Oakland (N)

	1981 SCHEDULE	1980 SCORES
September	6 At Detroit	13-17
	13 CHICAGO	—
	20 At Atlanta	10-35
	27 NEW ORLEANS	(OT) 38-35
October	4 At Washington	—
	11 DALLAS	14-59
	18 At Green Bay (Milwaukee)	16-23
	25 LOS ANGELES	17-31
November	1 At Pittsburgh	—
	8 ATLANTA	17-20
	15 CLEVELAND	—
	22 At Los Angeles	26-48
	29 NY GIANTS	12-0
December	6 At Cincinnati	—
	13 HOUSTON	—
	20 At New Orleans	26-23

San Francisco running backs Earl Cooper (#49) and Paul Hofer are good receivers.

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

Walsh calls his players "performers" and "producers." He loves a good show. He should conduct auditions, not training camps. He should block his game plans, not practice them. The performers should wear makeup, something prettier than that black eye shade.

Director Walsh's leading man last year was Joe Montana, who completed a higher percentage of his passes than any other quarterback in football, 64.5 percent. The average gain was only six and a half yards, which was about 22nd best in football.

Walsh's offense drives defenses crazy. They have to run all over the stage, er field, to keep up with it. They find out the field is 53 and one-third yards wide. Some teams think out of bounds is outside the tackles. Walsh takes the action closer to the fan than ever. If football is ever performed in the round, the 49ers will have the finest choreography in town.

Everybody gets in on the act. Last year, a rookie, Earl Cooper, caught 83 passes. An unknown receiver named Dwight Clark caught 82. Freddie Solomon caught 48. Paul Hofer caught 41 passes in less than six games.

The 49ers won their first three games and everybody was getting carried away. The other teams started completing passes, too. Walsh likes a good show, but this was not exactly what he had in mind. Other teams saw the beauty of completed passes every time they played Walsh's team. They saw it whether the 49ers had the ball or not.

Soon, opponents started completing passes like crazy. After they caught them, they ran into

the end zone. The Rams scored 48 points. The Cowboys scored 59. The Rams scored 31. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers scored 24. By the end of the year, the 49ers' opponents had completed 66.1 percent of their passes—more than Montana, more than Montana and Steve DeBerg combined.

Walsh's aerial circus had been upstaged. As ringmaster, Walsh knew he had to do something. More performers, bring on more performers. Find performers who knock down passes rather than catch them. Bring me defensive backs.

As usual, Walsh did not fool around. The draft arrived and in five rounds, presto, the 49ers had hired an entire new defensive backfield. How fast No. 1 choice Ronnie Lott, No. 2B Eric Wright, No. 3 Carlton Williamson, and No. 5 Lynn Thomas adapt to pro coverage could be the key to the 49ers' success in 1981. The 49ers have to knock down more than a third of the passes thrown their way, whether they alienate the audience or not.

As for Montana, he must continue his promising ways at quarterback so Walsh doesn't have to keep the musical chairs bit in his act. Last year, DeBerg and Montana jumped in and out of the lineup like dogs through hoops until Montana settled in during the final five games. No team can survive uncertainty at the most vital position. Walsh prefers Montana's superior mobility and appears to be ready to stick with him all the way, but he isn't quite ready to put that in print.

"Joe has the ability to be one of the top men



San Francisco coach Bill Walsh

at his position in the league, although reaching his full potential probably is three to four years away," says Walsh. "We expect more improvement from him in 1981."

Benching DeBerg was not the most pleasant thing Walsh has ever had to do, especially after the satisfaction of coaching him from his place as one of the least effective passers in football in 1978 to one of the most effective.

"He has had some excellent games with us and is quite capable of taking the starting role again," Walsh says.

It is difficult to tell whether that is confidence or hope in Walsh's voice. Montana's performance undoubtedly will decide. Behind both is veteran Gary Huff, who wouldn't be the worst thing that ever happened to a Walsh offense if both Montana and DeBerg went down.

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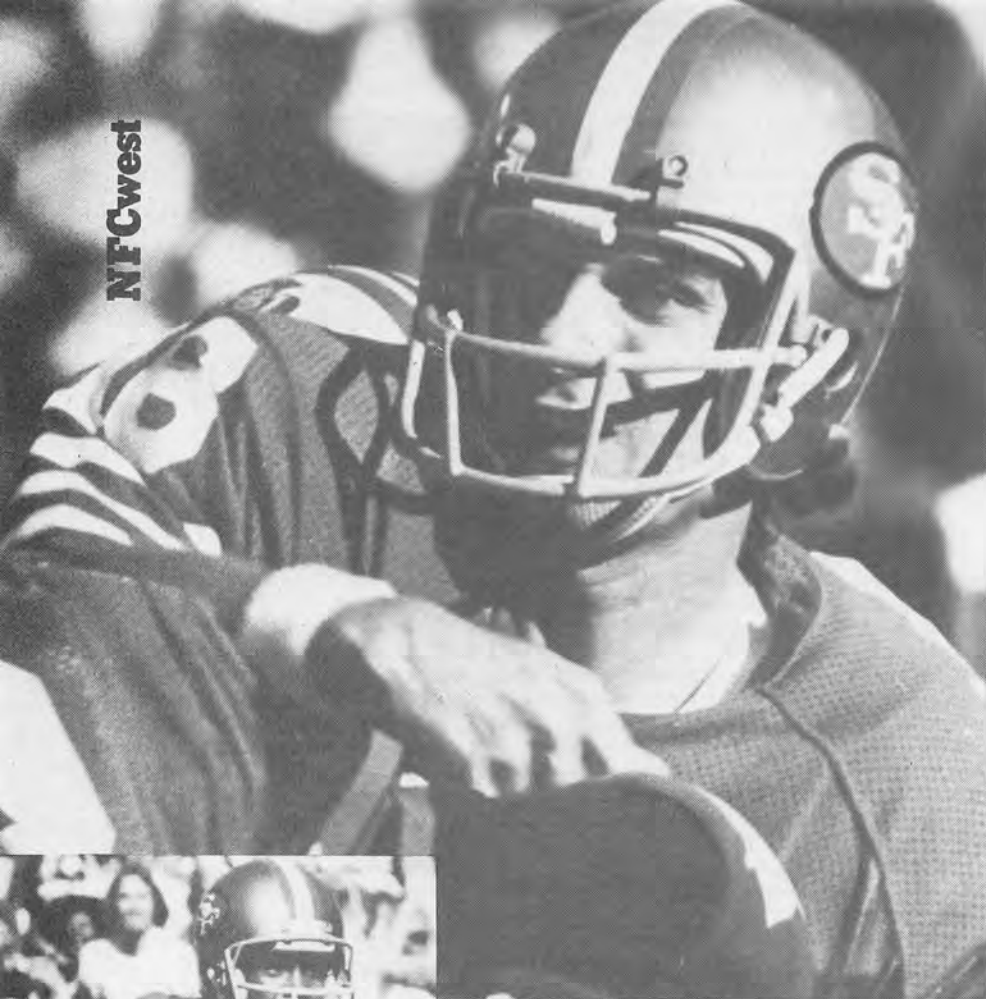
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The 49ers' leading receiver was also their leading rusher. As a rookie, Earl Cooper not only set a first-year NFL record by catching 83 passes, he gained 720 yards running. That would seem to be adequate for anyone, but Walsh says, "We expect much more productivity from him in 1981. He's capable of being one of the best blockers in the league. He has potential to become a 1,000-yard rusher." While you're at it, Earl, sell some tickets.

Cooper's performance stood out because most of his running mates were injured. Walsh calls little Paul Hofer "one of the great performers in football. We look forward to his return." In less than six games, Hofer had rushed for a 4.9 average and caught 41 passes for an 11.4 average. A knee injury ended his season. At 29, Hofer has a history of injury to overcome, but he is a player. He is generously listed at 6 feet, 195 pounds. Cooper played either fullback or halfback with Phil Francis and Lenvil Elliott last year and both went down with knee surgery, too, so the 49er depth at running back is not overwhelming. Three late draft choices may help.

If not, the 49ers may have to pass downfield more than ever. Their receivers look healthier than their runners. Clark was Steve Fuller's other receiver at Clemson when Jerry Butler was the main target. In that company, it was no wonder it took a Walsh-type offense to find him. Clark responded with good patterns, hands, and attitude and was worthy of a Pro Bowl ticket last year. The experience of catching 82 passes can't help but make the third-year receiver better in 1981. Freddie Solomon is the quick complement to Clark and enjoyed his finest season in six pro years.

"He still has not reached his full potential," said Walsh.

Solomon doubles as the punt returner and is one of the best in football. The third receiver, James Owens, is still looking for his niche after two years of bouncing from defense to offense. He caught only nine passes last year, but his 14.8-yard average, meager by league standards, was tops in Walsh's offense. Owens could provide the deep threat Montana needs. The former world-class hurdler was fourth in the league in kickoff returns.

"I have no doubts concerning his ability to become a top pro," said Walsh, who made Owens his first draft choice (in the second round) after taking the 49er job. Walsh expects veteran Charlie Young and young Eason Ramson to battle for the starting tight end job. Each caught two touchdown passes last year.

A disappointment last year was the play of the offensive line, expected to be one of the team strengths. Part of this is blamed on the unsettled situation at running back, especially on the absence of Hofer, who used his blockers better than anyone else. Pass blocking fell off from 17 sacks in 1979 to 30 in 1980, even with the more mobile Montana playing. There is a theory espoused by some of Walsh's rival coaches that it is difficult to be an offensive lineman in a Walsh offense because the dominance of passing leads to an attitude of retreat and a loss of aggressiveness up front.

The material appears sound. Right tackle Keith Fahnhorst, right guard Randy Cross, and

Quarterback Joe Montana of the 49ers has two good targets in Freddie Solomon (#88) and Dwight Clark.

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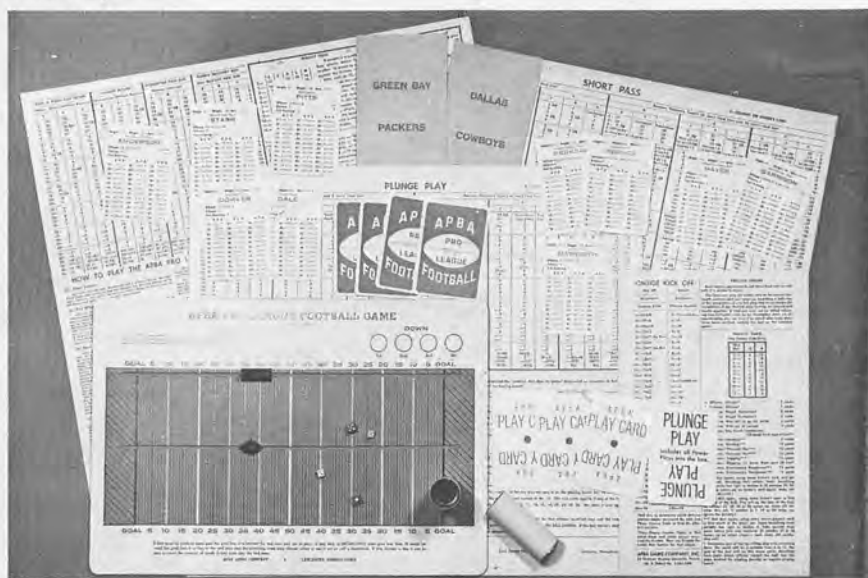
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To say that APBA fans are enthusiastic is an understatement. The **Wall Street Journal** article quoted above notes the case of an Ohio businessman who "refused transfer (and promotion) until his company assured him his new district had a flourishing APBA football league." It also describes another fan who elected to remain single rather than marry and surrender some of his APBA playing time. We're not claiming your devotion to APBA will become quite so extreme, but we're confident you'll like it—and like it a lot.

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center Fred Quillan are all Pro Bowl prospects. Left guard John Ayers started all games. Backups Jean Barrett and Walt Downing are both versatile and experienced.

The defensive line is of greater concern to Walsh. The 49ers have committed to a three-man front, unless Walsh finds four linemen too good to bench. The 3-4 defense proved much more effective than the 4-3 when the 49ers switched in midseason last year. During the first eight games, the 49ers allowed 31.6 points a game. During the second half, they yielded 20.3 points a game. Although they didn't use the 3-4 exclusively in the final half, the difference in statistics, especially near the goal line, was significant.

Archie Reese proved he could play nose tackle, which sold Walsh on the defense. No. 2 draft choice John Harty is another prospect. But if Harty develops fast, Walsh might have to get both tackles in the lineup. It is likely the 49ers will employ both defenses in particular situations.

As important as Hofer's return is to the offense, the rehabilitation of end Dwaine Board is vital to the defense. Board led the team in sacks in 1979 before a knee injury sidelined him last year. Veterans Lawrence Pillers and Jimmy Webb could not compensate for his absence.

"He is an outstanding pass rusher, the key to our rush line," said Walsh.

At left end, rookie Jim Stuckey led the team in sacks with 8 1/2 and appears to be a solid starter for the future in a 3-4 or a 4-3 lineup. The development of two other second-year players, linebackers Keena Turner and Bobby Leopold, may help Walsh make up his mind about the 3-4. Leopold played outside last year but Walsh wants to look at him inside next to leading tackler Dan Bunz. That would give the right outside spot to Turner, who was hampered by injury last year but showed enough for Walsh to gush: "He probably has more potential than anyone on the team at any position." The signing of free agent middle linebacker Jack Reynolds gives Walsh another veteran for either the 3-4 or 4-3.

Veteran Willie Harper is a steady player at left linebacker who also was hampered by injury. The kiddie corps backfield will be tested by fire. Lott is expected to move in quickest, replacing Ray Rhodes at left corner. Lott was a safety at USC but scouts call him quick enough to play the corner. Wright also was a safety at Missouri with the potential to play the corner. He may get a challenge from last year's starter on the right side, Charles Johnson. Pitt's Williamson is slated for the strong safety job held last year by a rookie, Ricky Churchman. That leaves Pitt's Thomas at free safety, where he is unlikely to unseat Dwight Hicks, Walsh's best defender a year ago.

The 49ers expect fewer lapses of concentration from their second-year punter, Jim Miller, and another accurate season from veteran place-kicker Ray Wersching, who hit 15 of 19.

"We are improving very gradually," says Walsh. "I wish we were moving up more rapidly because there's a long way to go. We need to be realistic about a timetable for dramatic improvement. The schedule is tough and we will be faced with more cold-weather games than we've had the last two seasons. It would be impossible to say how we might fare in '81."



49ERS VETERAN ROSTER

		NFL				
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp college
68	Ayers, John	G	6-5	255	28	5 W. Texas St.
77	Barrett, Jean	T	6-6	250	30	9 Tulsa
	Biedermann, Leo	T	6-8	265	26	1 California
76	Board, Dwaine	DE	6-5	245	25	3 N.C. A&T
72	Bungarda, Kestutis	T	6-6	270	24	2 Missouri
57	Bunz, Dan	LB	6-4	225	26	4 Long Beach
	Choma, John	OL	6-6	261	26	1 Virginia
33	Churchman, Ricky	S	6-1	193	23	2 Texas
87	Clark, Dwight	WR	6-3	205	24	3 Clemson
49	Cooper, Earl	FB	6-2	227	24	2 Rice
51	Cross, Randy	G	6-3	255	27	6 UCLA
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-2	205	27	5 San Jose St.
62	Downing, Walt	OL	6-3	254	25	4 Michigan
35	Elliott, Lenvil	RB	6-0	210	30	9 N.E. Missouri St.
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	T	6-6	263	29	8 Minnesota
38	Ferrell, Bob	FB	6-0	219	29	6 UCLA
48	Francis, Phil	FB	6-1	215	24	3 Stanford
82	Gilbert, Lewis	TE	6-4	225	25	3 Florida
59	Harper, Willie	LB	6-2	215	31	8 Nebraska
22	Hicks, Dwight	S	6-1	189	25	3 Michigan
55	Hilton, Scott	LB	6-4	230	27	3 None
36	Hofer, Paul	RB	6-0	195	29	6 Mississippi
19	Huff, Gary	QB	6-1	200	30	8 Florida St.
44	Johnson, Charles	CB	5-10	180	25	3 Grambling
52	Leopold, Bobby	LB	6-1	215	24	2 Notre Dame
3	Miller, Jim	P	5-11	183	24	2 Mississippi
16	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	200	25	3 Notre Dame
89	Owens, James	WR	5-11	188	26	3 UCLA
42	Patton, Ricky	RB	5-11	192	27	4 Jackson St.
65	Pillers, Lawrence	DL	6-3	260	29	6 Alcorn St.
54	Puki, Craig	LB	6-1	231	24	2 Tennessee
56	Quillan, Fred	C	6-5	260	25	4 Oregon
80	Ramson, Eason	TE	6-2	234	25	3 Wash. St.
78	Reese, Archie	DT	6-3	262	25	4 Clemson
	Reynolds, Jack	LB	6-1	227	34	12 Tennessee
26	Rhodes, Ray	CB	5-11	185	31	8 Tulsa
88	Solomon, Freddie	WR	5-11	188	28	7 Tampa
	Stone, Charles	G	6-2	255	23	1 N.C. State
79	Stuckey, Jim	DE	6-4	251	23	2 Clemson
50	Tautolo, Terry	LB	6-2	235	27	6 UCLA
58	Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	219	23	2 Purdue
90	Visger, George	DT	6-4	250	23	2 Colorado
74	Webb, Jimmy	DL	6-5	245	29	7 Miss. St.
14	Wersching, Ray	PK	5-11	210	31	9 California
	Whitley, Eddy	TE	6-3	230	23	1 Kansas St.
60	Wilkinson, Jerry	DE	6-9	260	25	3 Oregon St.
23	Williams, Herb	S	6-0	198	23	2 Southern
47	Woods, Don	RB	6-2	204	30	8 New Mexico
86	Young, Charlie	TE	6-4	234	30	9 USC

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Lott, Ronnie	DB	6-0	199	22	USC
2	Harty, John	DT	6-4	253	23	Iowa
2	Wright, Eric	DB	6-1	180	22	Missouri
3	Williamson, Carlton	S	6-0	204	23	Pittsburgh
5	Thomas, Lynn	DB	5-11	181	24	Pittsburgh
5	Jones, Arrington	FB	6-0	230	22	Win-Salem
6	Kugler, Pete	DT	6-4	255	22	Penn St.
8	White, Garry	RB	5-11	201	23	Minnesota
11	DeBose, Ron	TE	6-5	229	23	UCLA
12	Ogilvie, Major	RB	5-11	202	23	Alabama
12	Adams, Joe	QB	6-3	185	23	Tenn. St.



Defensive end Jim Stuckey (#79) anchors front line for Frisco; safety Dwight Hicks (#22) and DB Ronnie Lott prevent the long bomb.

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After consecutive 2-14 seasons in 1978-79, the 49ers' jump to 6-10 in 1980 was as dramatic as Bay area fans are going to see for a while.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

In an effort to reattach the "S" to his Saints, owner John Mecom has hired a coach with an "S" on his chest and the coach has drafted a player with an "S" on his bigger chest. Bum Phillips, being one of most highly visible, highly talkative coaches, already has convinced the New Orleans fans to take the bags off their heads and peek at what he is doing. No. 1 draft choice George Rogers, the Heisman Trophy winner, is supposed to make those fans blow up those bags and pop them all over the Superdome.

It is not so difficult to please the folks down yonder. They are appreciative people who manage to see progress amid the dimmest surroundings. Their great grandchildren will still be paying for the Superdome, for instance, and all they seem to ask is that their grandchildren see a winning team in it once or twice.

When the Saints were 8-8 two years ago, there were visions of making it to Super Bowl XV in the Superdome as more than impartial observers. The hope was based on little more than the law of averages. A reasonable fan has a right to expect some good after 13 years of bad, doesn't he? If 12 years of losing seasons are finally followed by a .500 season, the Super Bowl must be around the corner.

If Archie Manning has struggled and tried and rehabilitated from injury and showed every courtesy to his teammates and finally established himself as one of football's best quarterbacks, doesn't he have a right to expect more than a 1-15 season? Job couldn't do a better job than Archie Manning.

What is it with the New Orleans Saints? Unfortunately, what isn't with the New Orleans Saints seems like a better question. Bum Phillips addresses it with as much puzzlement as a tourist trying to find Pascal's Manale in the French Quarter.

"I felt like New Orleans was probably the best coaching job in the NFL from the time they started," says Phillips. "The way they turned out 80 somethin' thousand people in Tulane Stadium, you could tell they would always have good backing here. I don't know what the problem has been here, but I know it is not because the man (Mecom) hasn't wanted to win or hasn't financed the program enough to win." Phillips does know this: "If I don't do the job, I expect to be fired."

That is one thing Mecom will make sure of. Tom Fears got three and a half years. J.D. Roberts got a year and a half. John North got two and a half years. Ernie Hefferle got a half year. Hank Stram got two years. Dick Nolan got two and a half years. Dick Stanfel got less than a half year.

These guys don't get contracts; they come to work in day labor buses. They get paid in cash—after the workday. For security, they get side jobs picking fruit. Bum Phillips used to roam the sidelines in cowboy boots and a hat. He'll be in the Superdome wearing a blanket and sucking his thumb.

Another consistent inconsistency in the Saints' history is their record of drafts. This may prove the biggest clue to their woe—No. 1 choices Kevin Hardy, John Sinners, Ken Bur-

Quarterback Archie Manning excels for the New Orleans Saints.

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SCORING—Ricardo, 61 points on 10 field goals and 31 PAT's... 14th
RUSHING—Rogers, 80 carries for 366 yards, 4.6 avg., 1 TD... 26th
PASSING—Manning, 309 of 509 attempts for 3,716 yards, 23 TD's... 6th
RECEIVING—Chandler, 65 receptions for 975 yards, 15.0 avg., 6 TD's... 6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Myers, 5 for 96 yards, 19.2 avg., 12th
PUNTING—Erxleben, 89 punts, 39.3 avg., longest 57 yards... 9th
PUNT RETURNS—Mauti, 11 for 111 yards, 10.1 avg., 19th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Mauti, 31 for 798 yards, 25.7 avg., 1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 BALTIMORE (N)
15 HOUSTON (N)
23 Philadelphia (at Syracuse)
29 DETROIT (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 At Atlanta	13-31
	13 LOS ANGELES	7-27
	20 AT NY Giants	—
	27 At San Francisco	(OT) 35-38
October	4 PITTSBURGH	—
	11 PHILADELPHIA	21-34
	18 At Cleveland	—
	25 CINCINNATI	—
November	1 ATLANTA	14-41
	8 At Los Angeles	31-45
	15 At Minnesota	20-23
	22 At Houston	—
	29 TAMPA BAY	—
December	6 At St. Louis	7-40
	13 GREEN BAY	—
	20 SAN FRANCISCO	23-26

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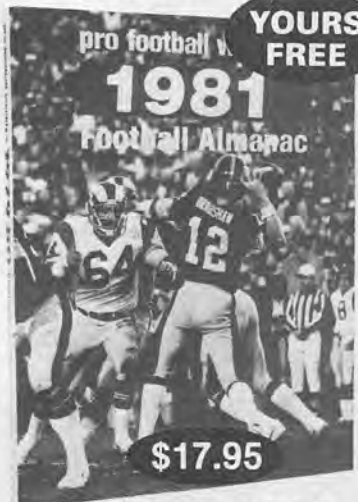
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rough (traded to Houston), Royce Smith (traded for Billy Newsome), Rick Middleton, Larry Burton, Chuck Muncie, Joe Campbell. And they've had only 15 drafts including 1981.

If you think the coaches are at fault, look at the players. At least you can remember the coaches names. Talk about short terms for the coaches; some of the players should have been given 15 to 20.

This brings up the most recent draft.

"I say 11 to 12 will make the team," said Phillips. Almost that many have a chance to start. Some of them flat out have to start. The pressure is on George Rogers. Not only is he the Heisman Trophy winner, the No. 1 pick, and the visible running back, he must overcome the stigma of being a Saints' No. 1 draft choice. There have been some doozies. Rogers also is the first No. 1 pick Bum Phillips has figured worth taking since Earl Campbell.

He was a Saints' choice a half hour when former coach Stram got on the radio and second-guessed it. Stram said the Saints should have drafted North Carolina linebacker Lawrence Taylor.

"Now they're probably going to have to trade Tony Galbreath," said Stram.

Phillips had an answer for that. "If he had picked the right people, he'd probably still be here picking." Galbreath was said to be happy and ready to line up beside Rogers.

"What's wrong with having too good running backs? asks Phillips.

If one of them is Chuck Muncie, it could be wrong. Muncie and Galbreath formed as talented a twosome as could be found, but all it got the Saints was trouble. Rogers is no Muncie by anyone's standards. No Earl Campbell either, Rogers is said to be extremely fast for a 6-2, 220-pounder, but not quite as nifty as a Tony Dorsett. He has been compared most often with Tampa's workhorse, Ricky Bell.

When Muncie was shipped out last year and



Saints owner John Mecom introduces new coach Bum Phillips to the press.

Galbreath got hurt, the Saints' running attack fell on the unlikely shoulders of free agent Jimmy Rogers, who led the team with only 366 yards. That's a good game and a half for the likes of Campbell, so the Saints' running attack was more like a retreat. Rogers and Galbreath have to make a difference. Rookie Toussaint Tyler also has the name and the right credentials to help.

They must take pressure off Manning, who has to be one of the most remarkable athletes in NFL history. Merely surviving from year to year would be unusual for most quarterbacks. Manning somehow manages to excel. In 1980, he passed for more than 3,000 yards for the third successive season. His 3,716 yards made him the most prolific passer in the NFC.

There was speculation, perhaps hope, that Mecom would unload Manning out of the goodness of his heart. A fine gentleman and athlete such as Manning should be allowed to

spend the golden years of his career in a greener pasture. After all, he has sacrificed body and soul to a floundering company. There was talk of Manning's retirement, but not for long. At 31, he is ready for his 11th season.

"When Bum was hired, it cleared up the questions I had about where the Saints were going and what my future would be. I think I can play for several more years," Manning said.

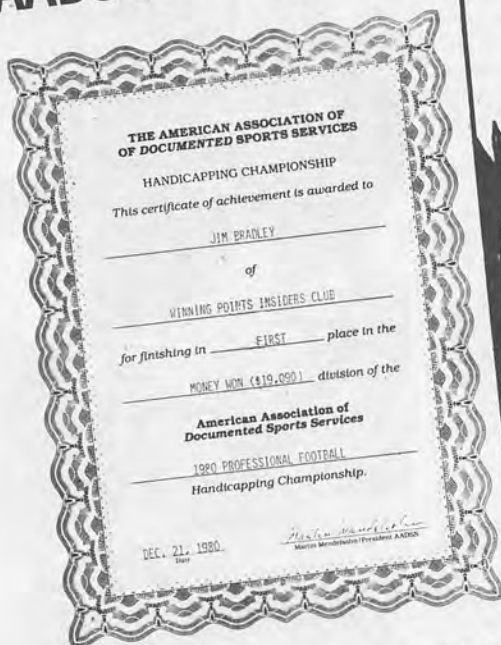
Behind Manning, the Saints have Bobby Scott, who was hurt half of last year, and untested Guy Benjamin. Versatile Guido Merkens, who played defensive back last year and has tried receiver, may go to training camp as a quarterback. Wes Chandler is a great talent, able to dominate defenses when he's clicking. Ike Harris is the precise, possession-type receiver who complements Chandler's explosiveness. Each caught six touchdown passes last year. Tinker Owens is a capable third receiver. Galbreath may have the finest

Draftee Toussaint Tyler (below left) hopes to crack the New Orleans backfield; Tony Galbreath and Wes Chandler are offensive threats for Saints.



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hands in the league for a running back. He caught 57 passes last year, 8 fewer than Chandler and 20 more than Harris.

The Saints unloaded their talented tight end, Henry Childs, much to the delight of all the teammates he alienated. Though he may be dif-

ficult to replace on the field, his distracting influence in the locker room will not be missed. Phillips won many friends with this move. When Childs was injured for parts of last season, Larry Hardy and Brooks Williams proved to be competent replacements. Both will discover competition from third-round draft choice Hoby Brenner of USC.

Manning's offensive line has a nucleus of two young tackles in J.T. Taylor and Stan Brock and a steady center in John Hill. If there are changes, they will come at guard, where starters Emanuel Zanders and Fred Sturt will be pushed by new acquisition Sam Adams and draftees Louis Oubre and Nat Hudson. Also in reserve is Dave Lafary. At center, Jim Pietrzak started two games last year when Hill was injured.

"The Saints have always been able to move the football," observes Phillips.

Defensively, it has been another story. Phillips will junk the 4-3 flex defense that never worked many miracles. He hopes he can find enough linebackers to institute his 3-4. Joe Federspiel and Jim Kovach are the leading candidates for the inside linebacker spots. Outside, Reggie Mathis and Ken Bordelon will get immediate help from second-round rookie Ricky Jackson. Free-agent pickups Don Hardeman, a converted fullback, and Sammy Green also will get a chance.

Up front, Phillips will be looking for a noseguard. Veteran Derland Moore played there at times when the Saints went to a 3-4. Mike Fultz and Barry Bennett also are veteran candidates. The man who may end up in the middle is fifth-round draft choice Jerry Boyarski, who is 6-3, 290, and quick. Left end Elois Grooms has been the most consistent and durable defensive lineman for the team in recent years. He and Moore were sack leaders last year with eight apiece. Second-year man Steve Parker or rookie Frank Warren will compete for the other end position. Warren is a talented player who lasted until round three because of motivational questions.

Rookie Russell Gary must contribute immediately in the secondary. He will be tried first at cornerback and if he can't play there, he has a ready-made job at strong safety. That's where the former Cornhusker starred at the Senior Bowl. Second-year man Dave Waymer, drafted last year as a possible safety, made it on the corner and appears set. Gary will be given a shot at Ricky Ray's job. Tommy Myers provides major-league play at free safety, but strong safety Ray Brown is considering retirement. Phillips calls eighth-round draftee Kevin Evans a "steal" and a possibility at safety.

Phillips wants Russell Erxleben to punt and place-kick, not too much to ask of a No. 1 draft choice. Erxleben surrendered kicking duties to Benny Ricardo early last year. Special teams star Rich Mauti returned both kickoffs and punts before he was hurt. Jimmy Rogers can return kicks. So can Wes Chandler, but the Saints need him elsewhere.

"I believe the defense can play a lot better," said Phillips. "Offensively, I think we have the makings of a good team. But a defensive alignment doesn't win for you. An offensive play doesn't win for you. Players win for you and

you've got to tailor your approach to fit what they can do well."

Until further notice, Phillips's approach is an open-door policy. If you can play, come on in; if not, goodbye.

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

		NFL				
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp college
	Adams, Sam	G	6-3	260	33	10 Prairie View
80	Banks, Gordon	WR	5-9	175	23	2 Stanford
7	Benjamin, Guy	QB	6-4	208	26	4 Stanford
63	Bennett, Barry	DT	6-4	257	25	4 Concordia
50	Bordelon, Ken	LB	6-4	226	27	5 LSU
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	275	23	2 Colorado
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	Bunch, James	OL	6-1	255	25	R Alabama
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	5-11	186	25	4 Florida
43	Collins, Larry	HB	5-11	189	26	3 Texas A&I
	Copeny, Jerry	RB	5-10	186	25	1 Utah State
	Dorsey, Larry	WR	6-0	193	28	4 Tenn. St.
	Echols, Donnie	TE	6-4	235	24	R Okla. St.
14	Erxleben, Russell	P	6-4	219	24	2 Texas
59	Evans, Chuck	LB	6-3	235	25	2 Stanford
58	Federspiel, Joe	LB	6-2	230	31	10 Kentucky
72	Fultz, Mike	DT	6-5	278	27	5 Nebraska
34	Galbreath, Tony	HB	6-1	230	27	6 Missouri
	Green, Sammy	LB	6-2	230	27	6 Florida
78	Grooms, Elois	DE	6-4	250	28	7 Tenn. Tech.
	Hardeman, Don	LB	6-2	235	28	7 Texas A&I
87	Hardy, Larry	TE	6-3	230	25	4 Jackson St.
82	Harris, Ike	WR	6-3	210	29	7 Iowa St.
	Hartley, Ken	P	6-3	210	24	1 Catawba
62	Hill, John	C	6-2	246	31	10 Lehigh
51	Holloway, Stan	LB	6-2	218	24	2 California
45	Holmes, Jack	FB	6-0	210	28	4 Texas So.
	Hudson, Grant	G	6-5	280	23	1 Virginia
	Jamison, Larry	LB	6-3	220	25	1 Jackson St.
	Jones, Quinn	RB	6-2	220	25	1 Tulsa
	Kearns, Tom	G	6-4	265	23	1 Kentucky
52	Kovach, Jim	LB	6-2	225	25	3 Kentucky
64	Lafary, Dave	T	6-7	280	26	5 Purdue
8	Manning, Archie	QB	6-3	200	32	11 Mississippi
23	Marshall, James	CB	6-0	187	28	2 Jackson St.
56	Mathis, Reggie	LB	6-2	220	25	3 Oklahoma
84	Mauti, Rich	WR	6-0	190	27	5 Penn State
	McCollins, Dennis	DT	6-5	252	24	1 Southern
	McConaughy, Tom	WR	6-2	185	24	R Cent. Arkansas
26	Merkens, Guido	DB	6-1	200	26	4 Sam Houston
74	Moore, Derland	DT	6-4	253	30	9 Oklahoma
37	Myers, Tommy	FS	6-0	180	31	10 Syracuse
49	Owens, Artie	WR	5-11	182	28	6 W. Virginia
83	Owens, Tinker	WR	5-11	170	27	6 Oklahoma
96	Parker, Steve	DE	6-6	265	25	2 Idaho
76	Pietrzak, Jim	C	6-5	260	28	7 E. Michigan
75	Price, Alex	DT	6-3	265	31	9 Alcorn St.
22	Ray, Ricky	CB	5-11	180	24	3 Norfolk St.
60	Reese, Don	DE	6-6	250	30	7 Jackson St.
1	Ricardo, Benny	K	5-10	170	27	5 San Diego St.
	Rippenhop, Bob	DE	6-6	245	25	1 Fresno St.
41	Rogers, Jimmy	HB	5-10	190	26	2 Oklahoma
48	Schwartz, Don	SS	6-1	191	25	4 Wash. St.
12	Scott, Bobby	QB	6-1	197	32	10 Tennessee
47	Spivey, Mike	CB	6-0	198	27	5 Colorado
68	Sturt, Fred	G	6-4	255	30	7 Bowls. Green
71	Taylor, James	T	6-4	265	25	4 Missouri
44	Waymer, Dave	CB	6-1	195	23	2 Notre Dame
88	Williams, Brooks	TE	6-4	226	27	4 N. Carolina
	Williams, Michael	DB	5-11	186	26	1 Texas A&M
30	Wilson, Wayne	FB	6-3	208	24	3 Shepherd
65	Woods, Robert	G-T	6-4	259	31	9 Tenn. St.
79	Zanders, Emanuel	G	6-1	248	30	8 Jackson St.

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Rogers, George	RB	6-2	220	23	S. Carolina
2	Gary, Russell	DB	5-11	195	22	Nebraska
2	Jackson, Ricky	LB	6-2	217	23	Pittsburgh
3	Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	275	23	Auburn
3	Brenner, Hoby	TE	6-4	240	22	USC
5	Oubre, Louis	OT	6-4	262	23	Oklahoma
5	Boyarsky, Jerry	DT	6-3	290	22	Pittsburgh
6	Hudson, Nat	OG	6-3	265	24	Georgia
6	Poe, Johnnie	DB	6-1	182	22	Missouri
6	Redd, Glenn	LB	6-2	229	23	Brigham Young
7	Williams, Kevin	WR	5-8	164	23	USC
8	Gladys, Gene	LB	6-0	216	24	Penn. St.
8	Evans, Kevin	DB	6-1	205	23	Arkansas
9	Tyler, Toussaint	RB	6-3	212	22	Washington
10	Gajan, Hokie	RB	5-11	214	22	LSU
11	Mickens, Lester	WR	5-11	175	23	Kansas
12	Wilks, Jim	DT	6-4	252	23	San Diego St.

Halfback Jimmy Rogers (#41), wide receiver/return man Rich Mauti (center), and OT Louis Oubre of Saints



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MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Enough of that rebuilding garbage. The Vikings are back. For those of you who blinked your eyes, they slid to third place in 1979 after Fran Tarkenton retired. It was supposed to mark the start of a transition period for Bud Grant's team. Every team needs to back off and adjust the dials once in a while. It was time for the Vikings to tune the engine that had won 10 out of 11 NFC Central division titles. After all, it had been tuned before in 1972.

All it needed this time was a couple of spark plugs. When no other team in the Central division race wanted to take the lead, the Vikings jumped back on the track in their traditional pole position.

The Vikings have won, win, and will win as long as Bud Grant is driving. That is the way it has been, is, and apparently will be. Fran Tarkenton was the best quarterback in the division and now it looks like Tommy Kramer is. The combination of the best quarterback and the best coach is usually unbeatable, especially in a division with so many unwilling challengers.

Examine the Vikings at a glance and you see a 35-year-old tackle, a 37-year-old cornerback, a tenuous running game, and a defense that ranked 26th in the league—25th against the rush and 24th against the pass. That's lower in every category than any other division rival. But look at the quarterback and the coach and the track record and it adds up invariably, inevitably, to first place.

The Vikings are back because they are winning as they used to win. Consider the way they squeezed their way to last year's title with a 9-7 record, worst for any division winner:

They blocked a field goal attempt to save a 23-20 victory over winless New Orleans.

They recovered a fumble just as Tampa Bay was about to go ahead in the final minutes of another game the Vikings had to win.

Then, in the game that clinched the title, Kramer threw three touchdown passes in the final five minutes to rally the Vikings from a 23-9 deficit against the Cleveland Browns. The game-winner came on a 46-yard prayer pass tipped into Ahmad Rashad's left hand at the goal line on the final play of the game.

With a legacy like that, how can anyone go against them? This is classic "Viking Power." It is the power to find a way to win. In recent years, few coaches have used the new rules of offense to better advantage than Grant. If you can't play defense, pass. If you can't run, pass. If you can't pass, keep passing.

At the midway point of last season, the Vikings were 3-5 and Kramer was close to awful. He had thrown 17 interceptions and only 7 touchdown passes. He threw 10 interceptions in two games and shook it off as a little slump. Grant benched Kramer in favor of Steve Dils, who directed a 39-14 victory over Washington, but Kramer shook that off, too, and returned to the lineup the next week. He led the team to five victories in their next seven games. During that

span, Kramer threw 12 touchdown passes and only six interceptions.

"A lot of people said, 'You should run more,'" said Grant. "But now people have seen it our way and they realize you've got to pass more. You are almost at less risk now passing than you are running. You used to be able to win in this business with tough defense and a good running game. I don't think that's possible anymore. We're finding it almost easier to pass for first downs than to run."

Few passers have been more effective than Kramer, especially in the Central division, where quarterbacking seems to provide little more than a constant source of argument.

"I don't think there's a quarterback around who can get the ball down field and into the end zone faster than Kramer," says Frank Gilliam, Minnesota's personnel director.

Although he has been criticized for a lack of arm strength, Kramer certainly can't be faulted for a lack of endurance. Against the Browns, he passed 49 times and completed 10 of his final 11 for 178 yards. Kramer throws from the pocket, the shotgun, and on rollouts with equal ability. His 3,582 yards passing last year broke Tarkenton's club record and enabled the Vikings to finish behind only San Diego and Cleveland in team passing.

With Dils in his third year—Kramer is in his fifth—the Vikings are more solid at quarterback than perhaps at any time in their history. Dils completed 32 of 51 passes for 3 touchdowns and no interceptions during his brief '80 stints.

The quarterbacks are blessed with outstand-

ing receivers, led by Hall of Fame candidate Rashad. Starting his tenth year, the 31-year-old Rashad shows few signs of slowing down. He explains: "I feel that I can play forever because I don't rely on skills that diminish. I have developed pace and finesse." Rashad has caught more passes over the last five years than any other receiver in football. He is the man a defense must stop.

Concentrating on Rashad, however, leaves Sammy White, Joe Senser, Rickey Young, and Ted Brown for Kramer to find. He does, too. From Rashad's 69 catches to Senser's 42, the Viking air attack is balanced. White remains the deep threat, although his average gain per catch was only a yard farther than Rashad's. Running backs Young and Brown are used



Minnesota running back Rickey Young

equally. Young catches a pass for every two runs he makes. Third wide receiver Terry LeCount will have company this year from rookie Mardye McDole, a talented prospect who could spell White more often if he lives up to his potential quickly.

The man who is fast becoming a key to the Viking pass attack is tight end Senser, a pleasant surprise last year who makes the retirement

1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Dannmeier, 81 points on 16 field goals and 33 PAT's... 7th
RUSHING—Brown, 219 carries for 912 yards, 4.2 avg., 8 TD's... 7th
PASSING—Kramer, 299 of 522 attempts for 3,582 yards, 19 TD's... 9th
RECEIVING—Rashad, 69 receptions for 1,095 yards, 15.9 avg., 5 TD's... 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Turner, 6 for 22 yards, 3.7 avg... 8th
PUNTING—Coleman, 81 punts, 38.8 avg., longest 65 yards... 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Payton, 34 for 251 yards, 7.4 avg... 13th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Payton, 53 for 1,184 yards, 22.3 avg... 7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 MIAMI (N)
14 At Washington (N)
22 ATLANTA (N)
27 At Los Angeles (N)

1981 SCHEDULE

September 5 At Tampa Bay (N) 21-10
14 OAKLAND (N) —
20 DETROIT 34-0
27 At Green Bay (Milwaukee) 3-16
October 4 CHICAGO 13-7
11 At San Diego —
18 PHILADELPHIA 7-42
25 At St. Louis —
November 2 At Denver (N) —
8 TAMPA BAY 38-30
15 NEW ORLEANS 23-20
23 At Atlanta (N) 24-23
29 GREEN BAY 13-25
December 6 At Chicago 34-14
12 At Detroit 7-27
20 KANSAS CITY —

1980 SCORES

Topsy-turvy conditions prevail in the NFC Central and for Steve Atkins.



VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

NFL

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
59	Blair, Matt	LB	6-5	229	30	8	Iowa St.
62	Boyd, Brent	G	6-3	260	24	2	UCLA
23	Brown, Ted	RB	5-10	198	24	3	NC St.
82	Bruer, Bob	TE	6-5	235	28	3	Mankato St.
24	Brune, Larry	S	6-2	202	28	2	Rice
20	Bryant, Bobby	CB	6-1	170	37	13	S. Carolina
26	Cobb, Marvin	S	6-0	188	28	7	USC
8	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	178	27	5	Florida A&M
7	Danmeier, Rick	K	6-0	183	29	4	Sioux Falls
12	Dils, Steve	QB	6-1	190	26	3	Stanford
61	Hamilton, Wes	G	6-3	255	28	6	Tulsa
45	Hannon, Tom	S	5-11	193	26	5	Michigan St.
75	Holloway, Randy	DE	6-5	245	26	4	Pittsburgh
51	Hough, Jim	C	6-2	267	25	4	Utah St.
56	Huffman, Dave	C	6-6	255	24	3	Notre Dame
52	Johnson, Dennis	LB	6-3	230	23	2	USC
53	Johnson, Henry	LB	6-2	235	23	2	Georgia Tech
25	Knoff, Kurt	S	6-2	188	27	6	Kansas
9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-1	199	26	5	Rice
58	Langer, Jim	C	6-2	253	33	12	S. Dakota St.
80	LeCount, Terry	WR	5-10	172	25	4	Florida
79	Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	258	24	2	Washington
54	McNeill, Fred	LB	6-2	229	29	8	UCLA
87	Miller, Kevin	WR	5-10	180	26	4	Louisville
35	Miller, Robert	RB	5-11	204	28	7	Kansas
68	Mitchell, Mel	G	6-3	260	28	5	Tennessee
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6	242	28	7	Colorado St.
49	Nord, Keith	S	6-0	197	24	3	St. Cloud St.
40	Paschal, Doug	RB	6-2	219	23	2	N. Carolina
36	Payton, Eddie	KR	5-6	179	30	5	Jackson St.
28	Rashad, Ahmad	WR	6-2	200	32	9	Oregon
78	Riley, Steve	T	6-6	253	29	8	USC
76	Roller, Dave	DT	6-2	270	32	8	Kentucky
89	Sanders, Ken	DE	6-5	246	31	10	Howard Payne
81	Senser, Joe	TE	6-4	238	25	2	West Chester
50	Siemon, Jeff	LB	6-3	237	31	10	Stanford
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	224	27	5	Illinois
69	Sutherland, Doug	DT	6-3	250	33	12	Superior
67	Swilley, Dennis	G	6-3	241	26	5	Texas A & M
37	Teal, Willie	CB	5-10	195	24	2	LSU
31	Turner, John	CB	6-0	199	25	4	Miami
71	Vella, John	T	6-4	260	31	10	USC
72	White, James	DT	6-3	263	28	6	Oklahoma St.
85	White, Sammy	WR	5-11	189	27	6	Grambling
73	Yary, Ron	T	6-6	255	35	14	USC
34	Young, Rickey	RB	6-2	195	28	7	Jackson St.

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
2	McDole, Mardye	WR	5-11	195	22	Mississippi St.
2	Sendlein, Robin	LB	6-3	224	23	Texas
2	Redwine, Jarvis	RB	5-11	198	24	Nebraska
3	Irwin, Tim	OT	6-7	275	25	Tennessee
4	Swain, John	DB	6-1	195	22	Miami
5	Ray, Wendell	DE	6-4	233	25	Missouri
7	Shaver, Don	RB	5-11	222	22	Kutztown
8	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	212	22	E. Texas St.
10	Murphy, James	WR	5-10	177	22	Utah St.
11	Stephanos, William	OT	6-4	262	24	Boston Coll.
12	Williams, Brian	TE	6-4	226	24	Southern

of veteran Bob Tucker hardly noticeable. A sixth-round draft choice in 1979, Senser spent his rookie season on injured reserve, but led the team with seven touchdown catches last year. The 6-4, 240-pound Senser gives the Vikings one of their biggest, most mobile targets they have ever had. With veteran Bob Bruer behind Senser, Kramer can feel comfortable.

On paper, Kramer shouldn't feel so comfortable with his offensive line. But he was sacked only 37 times last year, pretty good for a man who passed 522 times. The Vikings were confident enough in 35-year-old Ron Yary and 29-year-old Steve Riley to pass up a couple of outstanding tackle prospects in the draft. Both men played with minor injuries last year. Reserve strength at tackle comes from John Vella and David Huffman. The latter also can play guard or center.

Grant thinks guards Wes Hamilton and Jim Hough are versatile enough to shift to tackle in emergencies. They have done it before. And when Hough was hurt last year, rookie Brent Boyd filled in quite nicely at guard. Dennis Swilley probably is the best center in the division. He was good enough last year to keep veteran Jim Langer on the bench.

Run-blocking is of more concern than pass blocking, perhaps because running backs are of more concern than receivers. The Vikings wanted a big back in the draft to complement Brown, but were unsuccessful in getting the man they wanted. Brown's 912 yards rushing last year were a tribute to his ability, because the Vikings would rather pass and because they have no other running threat. Fullback Young gained only 351 yards, and Kramer was the third-leading rusher with 115.

The Vikings would love second-round draftee Jarvis Redwine to take some pressure off Brown, but Redwine is a speed back more than a fullback. Still, Grant can envision both men in the backfield at the same time. Any defense will have to respect Redwine's speed. The Vikings are calling 230-pound rookie Don Shaver (7th round) a sleeper in the Senser mold.

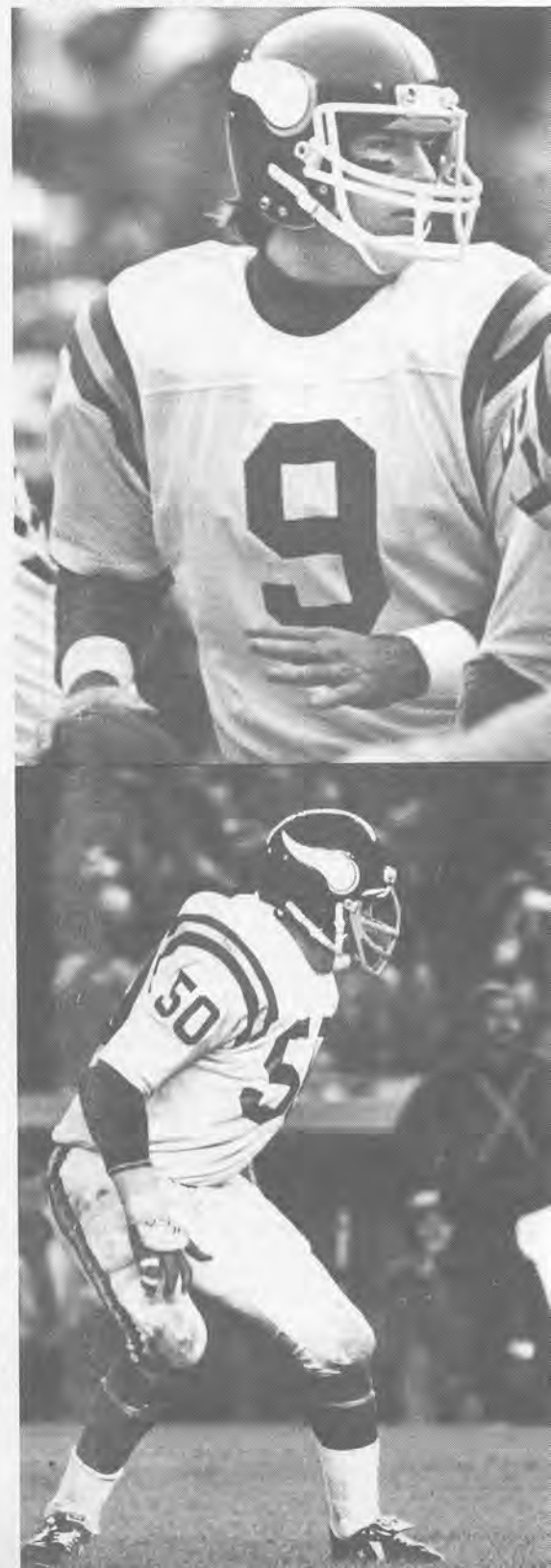
Minnesota's defensive line, long the strength of the franchise, received another boost last year when No. 1 draft choice Doug Martin worked his way into the lineup following a preseason holdout. With Martin replacing Randy Holloway at right end, the front four of Mark Mullaney, James White, Doug Sutherland, and Martin gives Grant youth, experience, and talent.

Outside linebackers Matt Blair and Fred McNeill are as good a pair of producers as any team could find. They make the big plays, the fumble recoveries, the blocked kicks that spell the difference in so many Viking victories. Inside linebacking is of some concern. Fifth-year player Scott Studwell will start ahead of ten-year veteran Jeff Siemon. The Vikings took Robin Sendlein in the draft and say he will back up Blair and McNeill. He has the size for a look at middle linebacker.

Like most teams, the Vikings would like to see better depth at cornerback, where 37-year-old Bobby Bryant begins his 13th season and young John Turner starts his fourth. He had his best year last season with six interceptions. Second-year man Willie Teal may get into the

lineup more often at either side. The situation at safety is more solid with Tom Hannon and Kurt Knoff. Both are versatile enough to flop from strong side to weak side. This hurts their postseason recognition, but not the recognition of opposing quarterbacks. Each returned an interception for a touchdown last year. Keith Nord and Larry Brune offer support.

The Vikings' poor record in defense against the run and pass is offset somewhat by their stingy record in allowing points. In the grand tradition of all Grant's defenses, the Vikings ranked 11th in the league in points allowed. This evolves from Grant's philosophy that a team



Viking power: coach Bud Grant (top left), quarterback Tommy Kramer (top right), and linebacker Jeff Siemon

cannot beat you by running and passing alone; it must move the ball into the end zone.

The Vikings also ranked third in the league in turnover edge, another tradition. They lost only three fumbles all year while recovering 14 and intercepting 24 passes. The special teams, not quite so grand a tradition, are adequate and appear to have some stability with place-kicker Rick Danmeier and punter Greg Coleman. Eddie Payton gave the team reliable kick returns, his fumble against Philadelphia in the playoffs notwithstanding. Payton could get competition from rookies Redwine or McDole.

The Viking draft was criticized when Grant and company decided to trade away their first-round pick for two second-rounders and a fifth-round pick. The second-guessers could not understand why any team would forego the "quality" 18th spot in the lottery for later quantity. The Vikings may be good, but not good enough to ignore first-round draft choices. It was surmised that their man wasn't there and they didn't know what else to do. As usual, Grant offered an explanation that seemed to quiet the doubters.

"We figured that after the first 14 in the draft this year, the next 50 players were about even. So, we wound up getting two of those players who can contribute instead of one."

It is difficult to argue with Bud Grant's math, his logic, and most of all, his success.

DETROIT LIONS

As usual, the Detroit Lions are a team with promise and problems to match. The combination of hope and despair, optimism and pessimism, happy players and sad, good players and bad, almost always results in a record close to .500. This enduring mediocrity is interrupted only every decade or so. Two years ago, for instance, the Lions fell to a horrible 2-14 record. It earned them Billy Sims, who helped them jump to 9-7. In previous years, the Lions finished 7-9, 6-8, 6-8, 7-7, 7-7, 6-7-1, 8-5-1, 7-6-1. You get the trend.

The Lions manage to hover around .500 regardless of who is playing, coaching, or drawing up the schedule. The only thing that stays the same is general manager Russ Thomas. Thomas and his .500 Lions. After opening last year's fifth-place schedule on a 4-0 tear and stretching it to 5-1, they promptly nose-dived to 2-6 while fighting injuries, defections, and bad snaps from center.

This year, there is good reason to hope for better things despite the more difficult schedule. But there are always questions. Will Russ Thomas make quarterback Gary Danielson happy? Will Doug English get a good contract? Who will stomp out of camp this time and tag Thomas with another nickname? Do coach Monte Clark and Thomas get along? Tune in at midseason to Days of Our Lions. Find out whether the players are whining or dining.

This year, their fate may be determined during the first month of the season when they face San Diego, Minnesota, and Oakland. But you never can tell about this team. Last year, it was believed that a fast start would be all the Lions would need to put them over the hump. Young and emotional, they were literally dancing in the end zones after early victories while loudspeakers blared "Another One Bites the

Dust." In the end, of course, the Lions were eating their own AstroTurf.

Clark remains encouraged.

"There's good reason to be optimistic," he says. "Most of the squad has experienced both sides of this business: the losing side and, last year, the winning end of it. The spirit around here has been great."

If the spirit doesn't get broken during contract negotiations, there is good reason to believe the Lions will challenge the Vikings in the Central division. The Lions' improvement last year was reflected in many more ways than the won-lost record. They scored 115 more

points and allowed 93 fewer over the 1979 totals. Sims made their rushing attack second best in the NFC, while their defense against the rush led the entire league. The Lions were the NFC's third-best offense and second best defense overall.

Danielson came off an injury to prove his 1978 season was no fluke. He was the seventh-leading passer in the league. He threw just 11 interceptions, a league low among starters. He set club records with 3,223 yards passing, 244 completions in 417 attempts.

The passes that killed the Lions were the ones from the center to Danielson. After the



Detroit quarterback Gary Danielson bounced back from a 1980 injury.

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

fifth game, when the Lions were 4-1, Clark was able to start his first-string offensive line only twice during the remainder of the campaign. Four different players played center, including rookie Tommie Ginn, who hadn't played the position since high school. When the Lions lose, it is always in an exotic way. Of the clubs' 40 fumbles, 34 took place during an eight-week, midseason span when center Amos Fowler was out of the lineup. Danielson fumbled 11 times—all directly traced to the center problems. Presumably, Clark won't have to ask for volunteers to hike the ball this year. Problems of that sort just don't occur every year.

Danielson is the kind of catalyst the Lions cannot afford to lose, either by injury or unhappiness over a contract. He is inspirational as well as effective and he does not allow his teammates to quit on themselves. Third-year man Jeff Komlo had an impressive rookie season when Danielson was hurt, so Clark is comfortable with him and second-year pro Eric Hipple behind his starter.

As Danielson got instant help last season from Sims, the Lions hope they drafted more firepower this year in receiver Mark Nichols. Fred Scott led Lion receivers for the second year last season, grabbing 53 passes for four touchdowns. He has become a consistent threat. But Nichols is bigger and faster and is expected to put more pressure on a defense.

The Lions haven't been able to complement

Scott in recent years, although starting wide receiver Leonard Thompson would argue that his 26.9-yard average on 19 catches should earn him more attention. Jesse Thompson and Ray Williams have had impressive moments as backup wide receivers and shouldn't be counted out. Likewise, Ulysses Norris is a capable reserve at tight end. David Hill is a formidable target at tight end, but his one touchdown catch last year was a career low. Nichols could open up everything.

Underscoring the need for a game-breaking wide receiver, the Lions used their fourth-round draft choice to tab another speedster in Tracy Porter of Louisiana State. Clark needed only one look at Nichols and Porter in rookie camp to declare: "When either one of them catches a ball and separates from the defensive back, they put some space in there."

Sims, who caught only two passes as a collegian, proved it wasn't because of bad hands. His 51 receptions last year made him second to Scott. His 12.2-yard average was exceptional for a running back. He is more than a safety-valve receiver.

Running is what Sims does best, of course, and he makes everybody on Detroit's offense more effective. Before he came, the Lions gained only 1,677 yards rushing as a team. Sims added 1,303 himself. Sims's 313 at-

tempts, 16 touchdowns, and five 100-yard games all established Detroit records. He even carried more than the ball.

"What impressed me most about Billy was his desire to be treated just like everyone else," said Clark. "For instance, rookies always carry projectors on the road, and Billy did his share of carrying just like the rest."

After switching to fullback to accommodate Sims, veteran Dexter Bussey ran for 720 yards and led the NFC with an average of 5 yards a carry. Bussey is just 114 yards shy of Altie Taylor's club career rushing make of 4,297 yards, a record he might hold for a couple of years before Sims catches it. Sims and Bussey represent almost all the Lion running attack, but Horace King, Rick Kane, Bo Robinson, and Ken Callicutt have experience and talent them.

Clark needs better luck up front, where tackle Karl Baldischwiler was the only offensive lineman to start all 16 games. Center Fowler, tackle Keith Dorney, and guards Homer Elias and Russ Bolinger all missed playing time due to injury. Intact, it is a decent line and Clark guaranteed its improvement with three draft choices in the first seven rounds. He called guard Don Greco too good to pass up in the third round. Tom Turnure, Willie Parker, and Ginn, who all tried center when Fowler went down, will vie for backup spots. So will veteran

NFC Rookie of the Year Billy Sims led the Lions with 1,303 yards rushing.

1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

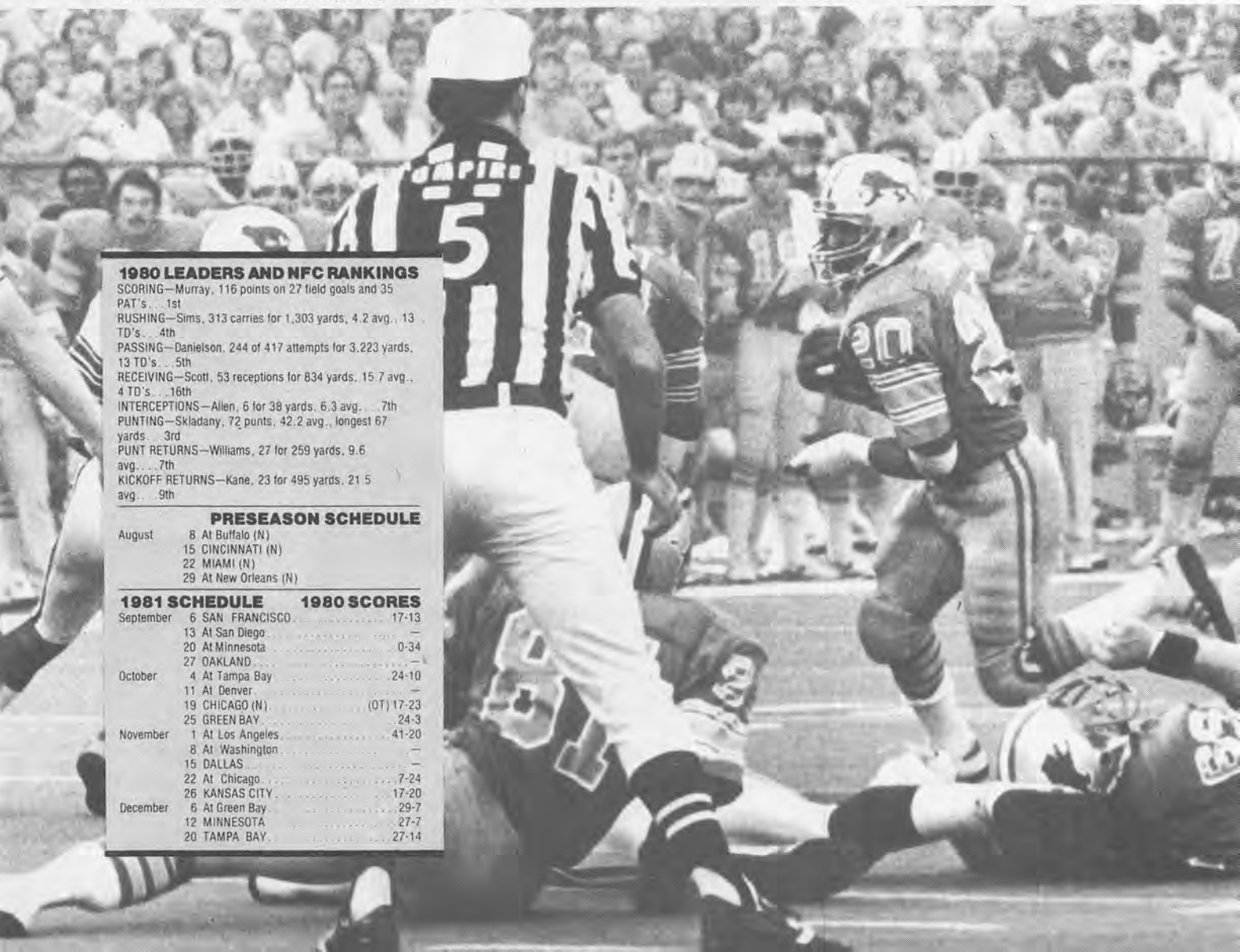
SCORING—Murray, 116 points on 27 field goals and 35 PAT's...1st
RUSHING—Sims, 313 carries for 1,303 yards, 4.2 avg., 13 TD's...4th
PASSING—Danielson, 244 of 417 attempts for 3,223 yards, 13 TD's...5th
RECEIVING—Scott, 53 receptions for 834 yards, 15.7 avg., 4 TD's...16th
INTERCEPTIONS—Allen, 6 for 38 yards, 6.3 avg., 7th
PUNTING—Skladany, 72 punts, 42.2 avg., longest 67 yards...3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Williams, 27 for 259 yards, 9.6 avg., 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Kane, 23 for 495 yards, 21.5 avg., 9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At Buffalo (N)
15 CINCINNATI (N)
22 MIAMI (N)
29 At New Orleans (N)

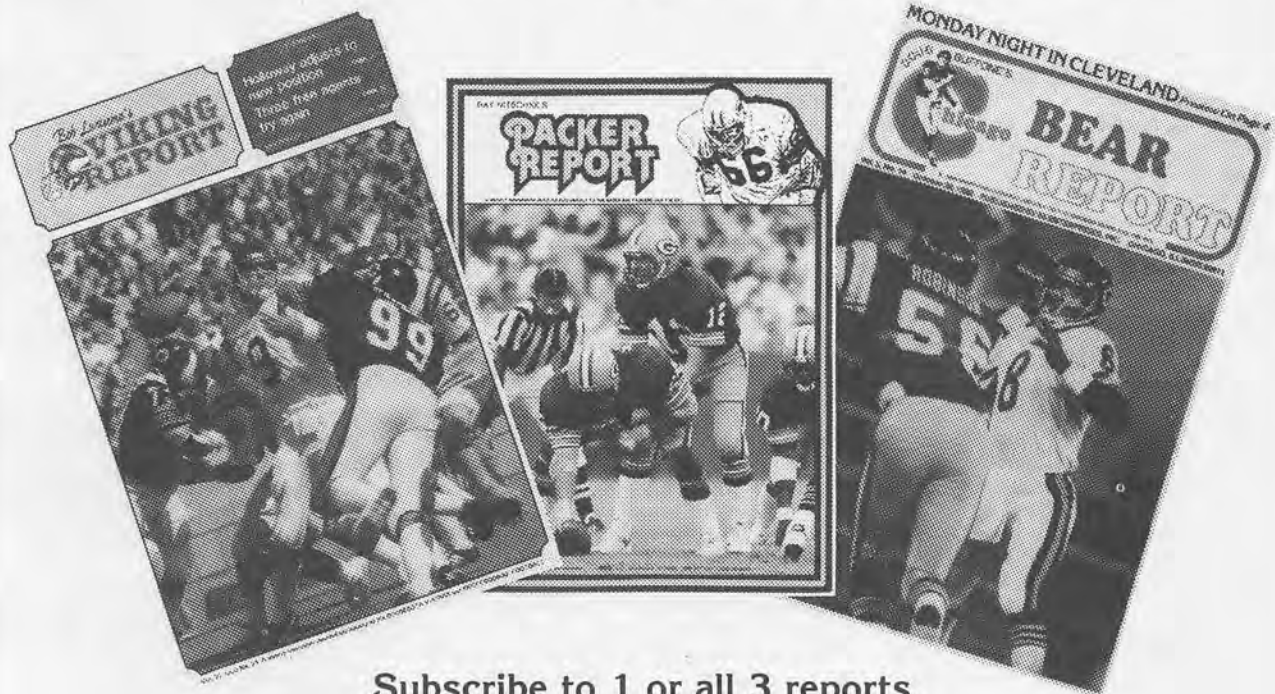
1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September 6 SAN FRANCISCO 17-13
13 At San Diego —
20 At Minnesota 0-34
27 OAKLAND —
October 4 At Tampa Bay 24-10
11 At Denver —
19 CHICAGO (N) (OT) 17-23
25 GREEN BAY 24-3
November 1 At Los Angeles 41-20
8 At Washington —
15 DALLAS —
22 At Chicago 7-24
26 KANSAS CITY 17-20
December 6 At Green Bay 29-7
12 MINNESOTA 27-7
20 TAMPA BAY 27-14



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S&S

Burton Lawless and second-year men Chris Dieterich and Mike Whited, who were baptized by fire last year.

Clark would love to see more stability in his defensive line as well, even though the Lions were the only club in the NFL to hold their opponents under 100 yards rushing per game. The stability may arrive with the return of defensive tackle Doug English, who sat out the 1980 season because of commitments to his off-season oil business.

"Doug is like another No. 1 draft choice," gushes Clark. "He's like the quarterback of our defensive line. He calls the games."

If English gets a satisfactory contract, he will help solve a problem that was magnified when veteran John Woodcock jumped the team last year. The Lions had to play veterans Curley Culp and John Mendenhall at tackle. Culp won't be back. William Gay and Tom Tuinei are possibilities, and the Lions used their No. 2 draft choice to tab unheralded Curtis Green of Alabama State. Veterans Dave Purefoy and Al Baker anchor the ends. Baker has 57 sacks in his 48-game career. Few pass rushers can be as devastating. Opponents have success running right at him, but that didn't stop the Lions from leading the league in stopping the rush.

Much of that credit goes to the linebackers. Veteran Stan White brought intelligence and savvy from Baltimore to call signals and maintain cohesiveness. If he can communicate his desire for a good contract with Thomas, the defense will benefit. Clark said it was a crime young middle linebacker Ken Fantetti didn't

make the Pro Bowl. He led the club in tackles and started every game. Veteran Charlie Weaver is solid at left linebacker and shows few signs of being the club's elder statesman. He enters his 11th season. Depth is a concern here, especially if White decides to practice law full time. Young Garry Cobb and Davie Simmons and Derrel Luce are the reserves.

The Lions' secondary improved last year despite injury. Cornerback James Hunter smoothed out some of the inconsistency that keeps him from being an All-Pro. His six interceptions gave him a share of the team lead with free safety Jimmy Allen.

Veterans Luther Bradley and Walt Williams nursed injuries last year, but should be ready to resume duties at strong safety and cornerback, respectively. In their absence, journeyman Ray Oldham and 11th-round draftee Wayne Smith turned in creditable jobs. Eddie Lewis is the only other reserve, but Clark hopes he got help from late draft choices Sam Johnson, Hugh Jennings, Dave Martin, and Willie Jackson. One or more of those newcomers also could give aid in the kick- and punt-return departments, where receiver Ray Williams performed well in both categories after coming off injured reserve.

Detroit special teams may be the best in the conference because kicker Eddie Murray and punter Tom Skladany are the highest-ranking duo in the conference. Skladany averages 42 yards a punt and Murray led the NFC in scoring as a rookie and went to the Pro Bowl.

Although Clark says he doesn't make promises or predictions, "just commitments," he ad-



Veteran Dexter Bussey of the Lions

mits, "I'm excited about the prospects in 1981. I think the schedule could work to our advantage. We've played some of our best football against the tougher clubs. After all, if you want to be the best, you have to beat the best."

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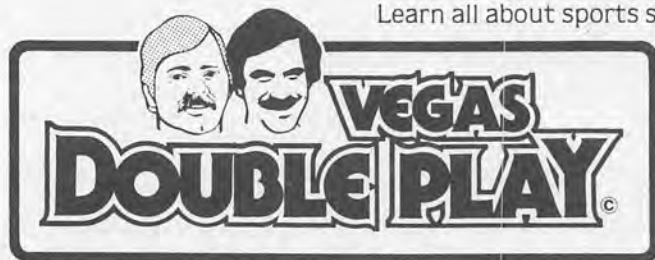
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2. The final standings of all 128 contestants in the Castaways 1980 Pro Football Handicapping Contest (which includes over 30 sports services).

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CHICAGO BEARS

The Bears always seem to be close, as in no cigar. Once believed to be the heirs apparent to the Minnesota dynasty, the Bears have tottered on the brink of mediocrity for four years.

In 1977 and 1979, they made it to the playoffs as an NFC wild-card team. In 1978 and 1980, they suffered losing seasons. In short, this is a team that has been to the playoffs but is not yet a playoff team. Just when they appear to be over the hump, they disappear over the hill. But they are always close and in 1981, they are another of those Central division teams that could finish anywhere from first to last. In either case, they would provoke mutterings of "I told you so."

Last year, no other team in football lost so many close games. The Bears were beaten by scores of 12-6 in overtime, 13-7, 17-14, 27-21,

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

				NFL			
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
40	Allen, Jimmy	DB	6-2	194	29	8	UCLA
47	Arnold, John	WR	5-10	170	26	3	Wyoming
60	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	250	25	4	Colorado St
76	Baldschwiler, Karl	T	6-5	265	25	4	Oklahoma
73	Bolinger, Russ	G	6-5	255	27	5	Long Beach
27	Bradley, Luther	DB	6-2	195	26	4	Notre Dame
24	Bussey, Dexter	RB	6-1	210	29	8	Arlington
31	Callicutt, Ken	RB	6-0	190	26	4	Clemson
53	Cobb, Garry	LB	6-2	220	24	3	USC
50	Cole, Eddie	LB	6-2	235	25	3	Mississippi
16	Danielson, Gary	QB	6-2	195	29	5	Purdue
72	Dieterich, Chris	T	6-3	269	23	2	NCS
70	Dorney, Keith	T	6-5	265	24	3	Penn State
61	Elias, Homer	G	6-3	255	26	4	Tenn. St.
57	Fantetti, Ken	LB	6-2	230	24	3	Wyoming
65	Fowler, Amos	C	6-3	250	25	4	So. Miss.
79	Gay, William	DE	6-3	250	26	4	USC
66	Ginn, Tommie	G	6-3	255	23	2	Arkansas
51	Harrell, James	LB	6-2	215	24	3	Florida
81	Hill, David	TE	6-2	230	27	6	Texas A&I
17	Hipple, Eric	QB	6-1	196	24	2	Utah State
28	Hunter, James	DB	6-2	195	27	6	Grambling
91	Jett, DeWayne	WR	6-2	194	23	1	Hawaii
32	Kane, Rick	RB	6-0	200	27	5	San Jose St.
25	King, Horace	RB	5-10	210	28	7	Georgia
19	Komlo, Jeff	QB	6-2	200	25	3	Delaware
68	Lawless, Burton	G	6-4	256	28	7	Florida
48	Lewis, Eddie	DB	6-0	175	28	6	Kansas
58	Luce, Derrell	LB	6-3	227	29	7	Baylor
64	Mendenhall, John	DT	6-1	255	33	10	Grambling
3	Murray, Ed	K	5-9	164	25	2	Tulane
80	Norris, Ulysses	TE	6-4	230	24	3	Georgia
23	Oldham, Ray	DB	5-11	192	29	9	Middle Tenn.
62	Parker, Willie	C	6-3	245	33	10	North Texas St.
75	Purelory, Dave	DE	6-1	255	32	10	E. Michigan
36	Robinson, Bo	RB	6-2	255	25	3	West Texas St.
87	Scott, Fred	WR	6-2	175	29	8	Amherst
63	Simmons, Davie	LB	6-4	218	24	3	North Carolina
20	Sims, Billy	RB	6-0	212	26	2	Oklahoma
15	Skladany, Tom	P	6-0	195	26	3	Ohio State
44	Smith, Wayne	DB	6-0	170	24	2	Purdue
84	Thompson, Jesse	WR	6-1	185	25	3	California
39	Thompson, Leonard	WR	5-11	190	29	7	Oklahoma St.
71	Tuinei, Tom	DT	6-4	251	23	2	Hawaii
55	Turnure, Tom	C	6-3	243	24	2	Washington
67	Walters, Rod	G	6-3	258	27	5	Iowa
59	Weaver, Charlie	LB	6-2	225	32	11	USC
52	White, Stan	LB	6-1	223	32	10	Ohio State
74	Whited, Mike	T	6-4	249	23	2	Pacific
30	Williams, Ray	WR	5-9	173	23	2	Wash. St.
21	Williams, Walt	DB	6-1	185	27	5	New Mex. St.

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Nichols, Mark	WR	6-2	192	22	San Jose St.
2	Green, Curtis	DL	6-4	256	24	Alabama St.
3	Greco, Don	OG	6-3	256	22	W. Illinois
4	Porter, Tracy	WR	6-2	196	22	LSU
5	Lee, Larry	OG	6-3	269	22	UCLA
6	Johnson, Sam	DB	6-1	195	22	Maryland
7	Spivey, Lee	OL	6-2	270	24	SMU
8	Niziolek, Bob	TE	6-4	220	23	Colorado
9	Jernigan, Hugh	DB	5-11	175	22	Arkansas
9	Martin, David	DB	5-10	185	22	Villanova
10	Cannavino, Andy	LB	6-1	225	22	Michigan
11	Jackson, Willie	DB	5-10	194	24	Miss. St.



Stanford All-America Ken Margerum (#28) adds his talents to Bears' offense, currently led by quarterback Vince Evans (#8) and Walter Payton (#34).



Second-year fullback Matt Suhey of Chicago runs into a crowd of Steelers.

10-6, and 17-14. Closer examination of those scores indicates the source of the problem. The Bears were their own defensive coordinator's nightmare. How can you hold teams to 12, 13, 17, 10, and 17 points and lose every time?

To help alleviate the problem coach Neill Armstrong hired Ted Marchibroda to conduct his offense. No finer teacher exists, according to many sources, including Marchibroda's record as a head coach at Baltimore. There, he won three division titles and turned Bert Jones into a polished quarterback. The challenge for Marchibroda in Chicago is to perform similar magic with Vince Evans, the Bears' young, rifle-armed talent who took over the job from Mike Phipps midway through last season.

Evans could not prevent the Bears from finishing last in the league in passing. That is for Marchibroda to do in 1981. And, to make the task more difficult than it is, the Bears lost their leading receiver, James Scott, to Canada. Scott, a superb athlete whose skills always were in the huge shadow cast by Walter Payton, decided it would be more fun to catch Vince Ferragamo's passes in Montreal and cash much bigger checks in the process. Besides, he said he had heard that stuff about the Bears passing more before. In the years he was with the team, they finished 27th, 21st,

26th, 26th, and 28th in passing. Maybe a team like that is better off without its leading receiver.

"Walter Payton is our leading receiver," said general manager Jim Finks when discussing Scott's exit. Walter Payton is everything to the Bears. He has been now for six years, going on seven. The club's record with him in the lineup is 44-45, but think what it might be without him.

This is how good Payton is: if he continues to average his 94.2 yards rushing per game for three more years (when he will be only 29 years old), he will have 12,907 yards, well past Jim Brown's "unreachable" NFL record of 12,312. Payton somehow manages to do it without a consistent passing attack. For two years, he also has done it without a healthy running mate. Opponent after opponent faces him with the same strategy in mind: "stop Payton and you stop the Bears."

Besides his running, Payton does find time to catch passes. His 46 receptions were ten more than Scott caught, although Scott's went for more yardage. Good defense and the presence of Payton are enough to make the Bears a threat to win every game they play regardless of their passing prowess. The team is dedicated to improving the passing, however, and they promise more changes than the replacement of Ken Meyer with Marchibroda.

"Our staff got a lot of criticism last year," said Finks. "But the fact is, players win championships. There's no position where we can't be improved. Some of our players didn't perform to their capabilities."

One of those players was veteran quarterback Phipps, who said after the team's 2-4 start: "I'm hurting the club." Evans replaced him and though he flashed signs of brilliance, it wasn't enough. With Evans at quarterback, the Bears' passing increased from 139 yards a game to 183 and the average yards per attempt went from 5.17 to 7.57. Evans's spectacular arm accounted for six passes of more than 50 yards and his running ability earned him eight touchdowns, the most of any quarterback in the league. One run was 58 yards.

"No quarterback comes close to matching his skills," marvels Phipps.

Marchibroda estimates that Evans is at a comparable career level to Jones when Marchibroda went to Baltimore and to Roman Gabriel when Marchibroda tutored Los Angeles quarterbacks. If the results are similar, the Bears should win the division. Phipps and former starter Bob Avellini are experienced reserves.

Scott will be missed no doubt in direct proportion to the Bears' fortunes. The fastest player on the team, his speed will increase (in the memories of the fans) if the Bears start losing. To replace him, the Bears have third-year

1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Thomas, 74 points on 13 field goals and 35 PAT's. 12th
RUSHING—Payton, 317 carries for 1,460 yards, 6 TD's. 1st
PASSING—Evans, 148 of 278 attempts for 2,039 yards, 11 TD's. 14th
RECEIVING—Payton, 46 receptions for 367 yards, 8.0 avg., 1 TD. 30th
INTERCEPTIONS—Walterscheid, 4 for 84 yards, 21.0 avg., 1 TD. 18th
PUNTING—Parsons, 79 punts, 40.6 avg., longest 61 yards. 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Walterscheid, 33 for 239 yards, 7.2 avg. 15th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Williams, 27 for 666 yards, 24.7 avg., 1 TD. 2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 NY GIANTS (N)
15 At Kansas City (N)
22 CINCINNATI (N)
29 At St. Louis (N)

1981 SCHEDULE	1980 SCORES
September 6 GREEN BAY	61-7
13 At San Francisco	—
20 TAMPA BAY	23-0
28 LOS ANGELES (N)	—
October 4 At Minnesota	7-13
11 WASHINGTON	35-21
19 At Detroit (N)	(OT) 23-17
25 SAN DIEGO	—
November 1 At Tampa Bay	14-13
8 At Kansas City	—
15 At Green Bay	(OT) 6-12
22 DETROIT	24-7
26 At Dallas	—
December 6 MINNESOTA	14-34
13 At Oakland	—
20 DENVER	—

man Rickey Watts, who performed well as a rookie when Scott was injured. Watts has the speed to be a deep threat and is working on his maturity. He has not displayed Scott's consistently sure hands. Watts alternated last year with Brian Baschnagel opposite Scott. A reliable receiver, Baschnagel is a favorite third-down player with the savvy if not the speed to get open. A rookie who could make an immediate contribution is third-rounder Ken Margerum of Stanford. Although small,

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A

Which quarterback holds
the record for most consec-
utive passes attempted
without an interception?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 Fran Tarkenton | 3 Bert Jones |
| 2 Sonny Jurgensen | 4 Bart Starr |

B

Which pro football player
holds the record for most
points scored in a Super
Bowl game?

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Don Chandler | 3 Chuck Foreman |
| 2 Roy Gerela | 4 Franco Harris |

C

Which running back
holds the pro career
record for the most
consecutive games
scoring touch-
downs?

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1 O.J. Simpson | 3 Gale Sayers |
| 2 Lenny Moore | 4 Jim Brown |

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questions. Enter the number next to the answers you circled in the
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coverage — FREE.

Margerum is an acrobatic receiver who caught almost as many touchdown passes last year (11) as the entire Bears' team (13).

The Bears' outlook at tight end is brighter than it has been in several years. Second-year pro Bob Fisher showed the speed and hands as a 12th-round draft choice to warrant more playing time. Converted fullback Robin Earl has the blocking ability and football sense to continue as a starter. Both are backed up by former starter Greg Latta, whose return from injury enabled the Bears to move Mike Cobb to tackle.

Payton's considerable receiving skills are likely to be exploited more than ever in a Marchibroda offense. In Baltimore, Marchibroda turned top runner Lydell Mitchell into the league's leading receiver coming out of the backfield.

Payton's unselfish blocking is at least as impressive as his running and catching. It makes him arguably the finest football player in the game. It also helps the Bears' fullbacks, who have needed help in recent years. Roland Harper, Payton's effective buddy for his first four seasons, struggled back from knee surgery last year but was not yet his old self. If Harper doesn't fully respond this year, second-year man Matt Suhey is expected to see plenty of action. Dave Williams is a utility back whose primary skill of receiving may get him moved to flanker. Payton's backup is third-year man Willie McClendon, who has shown talent but gets rare chances.

Changes are in store for an offensive line that has shown little improvement in its three seasons as a unit. No. 1 draft choice Keith Van Horne is expected to start at left tackle, where incumbent Ted Albrecht was drafted No. 1 in 1977 as a guard. Van Horne will enable Albrecht to move to guard, where starters Noah Jackson and Revie Sorey need the competition. Van Horne will not have an easy baptism facing the likes of Lee Roy Selmon, Al Baker, Ezra Johnson, and Doug Martin twice a year in the Central division. The Bears are solid at right tackle with No. 1 choice Dennis Lick and at center with veteran Dan Neal. The switch of former No. 1 Cobb to tackle gives the Bears four first-round interior linemen.

The Bears think they have the best defensive line in the division with Dan Hampton, Jim Osborne, Alan Page, and Mike Hartenstein starting and Al Harris in reserve. Hampton, Page, and Harris are all former No. 1 draft choices. Hampton made the Pro Bowl last year and appears on his way to establishing himself as one of the game's best left ends. Ironically, Hampton may be the leading candidate for Page's right tackle spot when Page ends his 15-year career after this season.

Although defenses still love to run right at the 225-pound Page, he has not lost his uncanny nose for the big play, the recovered fumble, the interception, the timely sack, the blocked kick. Unsung but effective is left tackle Osborne, a ten-year veteran. Keeping Harris on the bench is Hartenstein, whose rock-steady performance earns him accolades from coaches if not from the press.

More changes are expected at linebacker, where the Bears have made Otis Wilson and Mike Singletary high draft choices the last two years. Wilson, last year's No. 1, is expected to



push Jerry Muckensturm at left linebacker. Wilson started the last game last season and performed as though he should have started many more. Weak-side linebacker Gary Campbell, like Muckensturm, is a steady player in a defensive system that puts a premium on errorless ball. Middle linebacker Tom Hicks calls signals in the Bears' multiple alignments. But second-round rookie Singletary is the kind of intense, helmet-breaking hitter the Bears would like to see in the middle. Harris is mobile enough to handle linebacking responsibilities in some special defenses.

The four starting defensive backs managed only four interceptions among them last season and this shortcoming will be a major focus of the coming season. The Bears drafted three defensive backs in a row in rounds four, six, and seven in an effort to provide competition and depth in a shaky area. Starting cornerbacks Allan Ellis and Terry Schmidt do workmanlike jobs, but the only backup with any experience at all is injury-plagued Wentford Gaines.

Strong safety Gary Fencik is a Pro Bowl player who adds leadership to his tackling and covering abilities. Free safety Doug Plank makes enemies with his brutal tackling, but seldom makes interceptions. For that reason, reserve safety Len Walterscheid, who led the club last year with four thefts, may get more playing time in regular defenses. Rookie Todd Bell also is a factor if Armstrong decides lineup juggling is the answer.



Place-kicker Bob Thomas and punter Bob Parsons are starting their seventh season together. No other kicking duo in the league has enjoyed such longevity. Dave Williams is a better than average kickoff-return man, but the Bears are looking for a punt returner and for improvement in their punt and kickoff coverage.

The Bears hope to break their habit of slow starts. For four straight years, including their playoff years, they have opened their schedule with a record of 3-5. Twice they have climbed out of the hole; twice they have sunk.

"There's no reason why we can't regroup the people we have and go after the title," says Armstrong. "We've got to start winning the close ones. If we would have won half of them last year, we'd have been at least 9-7 and probably in the playoffs."

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

NFL									
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college		
64	Albrecht, Ted	OL	6-4	250	27	5	California		
7	Avellini, Bob	QB	6-2	210	28	7	Maryland		
84	Baschnagel, B.	WR	6-0	184	27	6	Ohio St.		
49	Becker, Dave	S	6-2	190	24	2	Iowa		
59	Campbell, Gary	LB	6-1	220	29	5	Colorado		
87	Cobb, Mike	TE	6-5	243	26	5	Mich. St.		
81	Earl, Robin	TE	6-5	240	26	5	Washington		
48	Ellis, Allan	CB	5-10	177	30	8	UCLA		
8	Evans, Vince	DB	6-2	212	26	5	USC		
45	Fencik, Gary	S	6-1	197	27	6	Yale		
85	Fisher, Bob	TE	6-3	240	23	2	SMU		
36	Gaines, W.	CB	6-0	185	28	4	Cincinnati		
83	Haines, Kris	WR	5-11	180	24	3	Notre Dame		
99	Hampton, Dan	DL	6-5	255	24	3	Arkansas		
35	Harper, Roland	RB	5-11	210	28	6	La. Tech		
90	Harris, Al	OE	6-5	240	25	3	Arizona St.		
73	Hartenstine, M.	DE	6-3	243	28	7	Penn. St.		
51	Herron, Bruce	LB	6-2	220	27	4	New Mexico		
54	Hicks, Tom	LB	6-4	235	29	6	Illinois		
47	Hoke, Jonathan	CB	5-11	175	24	2	Ball St.		
65	Jackson, Noah	G	6-2	265	30	7	Tampa		
62	Jiggetts, Dan	T	6-5	270	27	6	Harvard		
57	Kunz, Lee	LB	6-2	225	24	3	Nebraska		
88	Latta, Greg	TE	6-3	225	29	6	Morgan St.		
70	Lick, Dennis	T	6-3	265	27	6	Wisconsin		
29	Lusby, Vaughn	CB	5-10	181	25	2	Arkansas		
37	McClendon, W.	RB	6-1	205	24	3	Georgia		
71	Moore, Rocco	G	6-5	276	26	2	W. Michigan		
58	Muckensturm, J.	LB	6-4	220	28	6	Arkansas St.		
52	Neil, Dan	C	6-4	255	32	9	Kentucky		
68	Osborne, Jim	DT	6-3	245	32	10	Southern		
82	Page, Alan	DT	6-4	225	36	15	Notre Dame		
86	Parsons, Bob	P	6-5	225	31	10	Penn. St.		
34	Payton, Walter	RB	5-10	202	27	7	Jackson St.		
15	Phipps, Mike	QB	6-3	209	34	12	Purdue		
46	Plank, Doug	S	5-11	202	28	7	Ohio St.		
76	Rydalch, Ron	DT	6-4	250	29	7	Utah		
44	Schmidt, Terry	CB	6-0	177	29	8	Ball St.		
72	Shearer, Brad	DT	6-3	247	26	3	Texas		
30	Skibinski, John	RB	6-0	222	26	3	Purdue		
69	Sorey, Revie	G	6-2	260	28	7	Illinois		
26	Suhey, Matt	RB	5-11	212	23	2	Penn. St.		
53	Tabor, Paul	OL	6-4	241	25	2	Oklahoma		
16	Thomas, Bob	K	5-10	175	29	7	Notre Dame		
23	Walterscheid, L.	S	5-11	190	27	5	S. Utah St.		
80	Watts, Rickey	WR	6-1	203	24	3	Tulsa		
22	Williams, Dave	RB	6-2	217	27	5	Colorado		
55	Wilson, Otis	LB	6-2	222	24	2	Louisville		

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Van Horne, Keith	OT	6-6	265	24	USC
2	Singletary, Mike	LB	5-11	230	23	Baylor
3	Margerum, Ken	WR	5-10	170	23	Stanford
4	Bell, Todd	DB	6-1	207	23	Ohio St.
6	Henderson, Reuben	DB	6-1	200	23	San Diego St.
7	Fisher, Jeff	DB	5-11	188	23	USC
8	Zetek, Scott	DL	6-5	240	23	Notre Dame
9	Ditta, Frank	OG	6-2	264	23	Baylor
10	Clifford, Tim	QB	6-1	207	23	Indiana
11	Johnson, Lonnie	RB	6-1	206	22	Indiana
12	Shupryt, Bob	LB	6-1	206	23	New Mexico

Chicago's top draft pick, Keith Van Horne (above), and Bear defenders Len Walterscheid (#23) and Tom Hicks (#54)

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NFCentral GREEN BAY PACKERS

The Green Bay Packers outdid the Los Angeles Rams, New Orleans Saints, and every other NFL team last year for the honor of Funniest Franchise. Depending on the day of the week, they were funny-odd and funny-ha-ha.

No other club provided more entertainment than coach Bart Starr's Packers, especially off-the-field entertainment. Starr himself played a leading role and Starr-gazing became a favorite pastime in Wisconsin. He allowed his normally aloof exterior to be ruffled by a critical Milwaukee sportswriter and engaged in a silly, year-long feud. Was it any wonder that one of his players thought nothing strange about eating a hot dog on the sidelines during a 38-0 preseason loss to Denver?

"I didn't eat the hot dog out of no disrespect," said defensive end Ezra Johnson. "I was just hungry."

Was it any wonder that Starr's players engaged in open locker-room warfare at various times during the season? Was it any wonder that a lack of consistency tumbled the Pack into last place? Wasn't it typical of the confusion when the Packers' board of directors stripped Starr of his general manager duties and left him dangling on the end of the one-year contract as coach?

And will 1981 be any different now that Starr has stunned observers by drafting a quarterback No. 1? There is not much question that California's Rich Campbell is the top rookie quarterback prospect in the league. There is not much question that the Packers needed help at quarterback. But can Campbell help Starr quickly enough? Starr said no one pressured him into making Campbell his first choice.

"We committed ourselves a long time ago to building through the draft and we feel this choice is in keeping with that commitment," he said. "Whether we're here for one year or ten or whatever, that's not going to affect our drafting procedure."

Just in case Campbell isn't the immediate answer, the Packers drafted a punter in the third round.

In the tight Central division, the Packers have good reason to feel that last place is not very far at all from first place. No other division is more closely contested. Starr figured last year's 5-10-1 record could have been 9-7 if a mere seven plays had turned out differently. That's

plays, not games or halves or quarters. Starr pulled seven plays out of four games—a 14-14 tie with Tampa, a 20-17 loss to Tampa, a 26-21 last-second loss to Cleveland, and a 22-20 loss to Pittsburgh—to make his point. Bad snaps, tipped passes, a 24-yard missed field goal can spell the difference in the Central division. But Starr does not presume that fate alone dumped the Packers to the bottom of the pile.

"We've been playing with some second-rate football people. They're first-class citizens and hard-working, dedicated football players, but they're not starting caliber players," Starr says. "There will be several changes."

It is unlikely that one of the changes will immediately involve the quarterbacking, especially following the remarkable year of veteran Lynn Dickey in 1980. Rebounding from a broken leg that sidelined him for a full season and substantial portions of two others, Dickey started every game and broke almost every major season and single-game passing record in Packer history. He helped the Packers finish eighth in the league in passing, ahead of six playoff teams.

With four-year veteran David Whitehurst and youngsters Mark Miller and Mike Mancuso on the roster, Starr said before the draft he felt more comfortable about the position than he had in many years. So not only did the Packers make Campbell their No. 1 selection, they took Tulane's Nicky Hall in the 10th round, putting six candidates on the roster.

"I hope Lynn has a great year," said personnel man Dick Corrick. "I hope he stays healthy and we can take our time developing Campbell. Not that he's not capable of starting, but I'd just like it if we could spoon-feed him." A poor early record would likely speed up the feeding process regardless of Dickey's performance.

Whoever is quarterback has the advantage of throwing to James Lofton, a privilege unique in the division. Few receivers in football combine the speed, size, and grace of Lofton, who is about to take his place alongside legendary Packer receiver Don Hutson. Lofton's 1,226 yards last season was an NFC high and his 71 receptions fell only three short of Hutson's club mark. Lofton is so talented that the Packers were not afraid to play him at defensive safety briefly when injury decimated the secondary.

Didn't Lofton fear injury?

"No, I wasn't afraid I would hurt anybody," Lofton responded.

Lofton's prowess is more impressive considering the lack of a complementary threat.

"We have not received consistent play from our other receivers and we must improve in that respect so that we take some of the pressure off James," said Starr. The incumbent is Aundra Thompson, who shook off injury last year and increased his production from 26 catches to 40. But the Packer coaches like the chances of Fred Nixon to move into the lineup.

"This position should prove to be a very competitive one in training camp," said Starr. Ron Cassidy and Bobby Kimball are reserves.

Adding to the intrigue of the receiving picture is second-round draft choice Gary Lewis, a 6-5, 234-pound tight end. The Packers have Paul Coffman at tight end and rival coaches and players rate Coffman better than the more publicized tight ends in the division, Detroit's David Hill and Tampa Bay's Jimmy Giles. Coff-



1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Ellis, 48 points on 8 touchdowns... 26th
RUSHING—Ivery, 202 carries for 831 yards, 4.1 avg., 3 TD's... 8th
PASSING—Dickey, 278 of 478 attempts for 3,529 yards, 15 TD's... 10th
RECEIVING—Lofton, 71 receptions for 1,226 yards, 17.3 avg., 4 TD's... 3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Gray, 5 for 54 yards, 10.8 avg... 16th
PUNTING—Beverly, 86 punts, 38.3 avg., longest 55 yards... 14th
PUNT RETURNS—Cassidy, 17 for 139 yards, 8.2 avg... 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lee, 30 for 589 yards, 19.6 avg... 15th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 At Dallas (N)
15 OAKLAND (N at Milwaukee)
22 At Denver (N)
29 CLEVELAND (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	6 At Chicago	7-61
	13 ATLANTA	—
	20 At Los Angeles	21-51
	27 MINNESOTA (at Milwaukee)	16-3
October	4 At NY Giants	21-27
	11 TAMPA BAY	17-20
	18 SAN FRANCISCO (at Milwaukee)	23-16
	25 At Detroit	3-24
November	1 SEATTLE	—
	8 NY GIANTS (at Milwaukee)	—
	15 CHICAGO	(OT) 12-6
	22 At Tampa Bay	(OT) 14-14
	29 At Minnesota	25-13
December	6 DETROIT	7-29
	13 At New Orleans	—
	20 At NY Jets	—

man has caught 98 passes over the last two years and is the man most responsible for alleviating Lofton's work load.

"Coffman has exceeded our expectations. He wants to be the best at that position. No one on our team works harder at his position than Paul does," says Starr. So what does Lewis do?

The Packers say Lewis was the best athlete they worked out prior to the draft. He has the speed and talent to be used in special situations, the way the San Diego Chargers employ Kellen Winslow. Look for Lewis to break into the lineup ahead of Campbell.

The Packers feel they may be more solid at running back than at any other position. The starters are third-year man Eddie Lee Ivery and second-year "find" Gerry Ellis. Ivery really is starting his second year, too. He responded to 1979 knee surgery with a team-leading 821 yards rushing and 1,302 yards total offense. Ellis, plucked off the free-agent scrap heap, led the team in scoring, was second in rushing, and third in receiving. Starr wants both to improve their blocking, but they seem to work well together.

Depth is the real Packer forte at running back. Terrell Middleton was a 1,000-yard rusher in 1978. Steve Atkins is a gifted third-year pro who was sidelined with an ankle injury midway through last season. Harlan Huckleby, Eric Torkelson, and Vickey Ray Anderson all have the ability to make certain contributions.

Injuries, which put 27 Packers on the reserve list during last season, took their toll on the of-



Green Bay coach Bart Starr (top) and quarterback Lynn Dickey (left)

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ensive line. Starr is counting on the return of injury-plagued Mark Koncar at left tackle after Achilles tendon surgery. The Packers passed up outstanding offensive linemen in the draft because they were confident about Koncar's rehabilitation. Tim Stokes filled in for Koncar last year and is a capable reserve. Right tackle Greg Koch continues to improve as he enters his fifth year and center Larry McCarren is a rock at center in his ninth season. Guards

Leotis Harris and Derrell Gofourth both nursed injuries while playing. Starr likes young backups Karl Swanke, Syd Kitson, and Buddy Aydelette.

Having yet to recover from the defection of 1980 No. 1 draft choice Bruce Clark to Canada, the Packers drafted two nose tackle prospects this year—in the fourth and fifth rounds.

They hope either Richard Turner of Oklahoma or Byron Braggs of Alabama gives them stability between ends Mike Butler and Ezra Johnson. Stability and consistency are things the Packers lacked on the defensive line from the time the hot dog incident led to the resignation of defensive line coach Fred Von Appen. Butler and Johnson each had nine sacks. Nose tackle Charles Johnson has talent, Starr says, but not consistency. Casey Merrill is the only proven reserve at end.

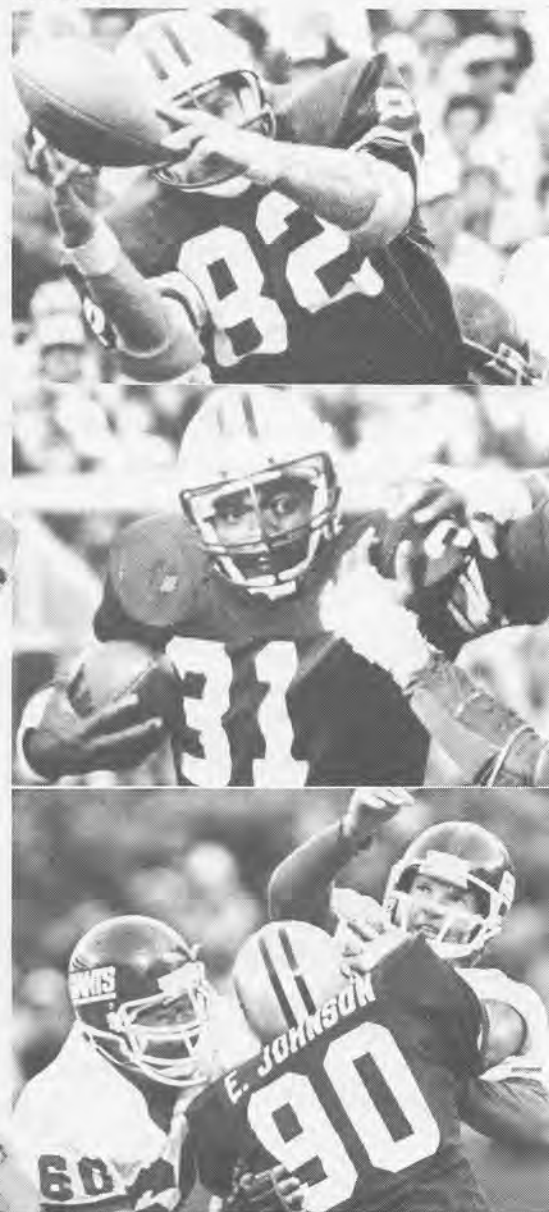
Injuries hit the Packers hardest at linebacker, where the loss of inside man Rich Wingo was nearly devastating. Though starting only his third year, Wingo is the main man on defense. Even last year, Starr said of the injury, "We don't have enough team strength to overcome that type of loss. He demonstrated he is a team leader as a rookie. He is inspirational and motivates people around him." Starr also expects the return of oft-injured John Anderson and second-year man George Cumby to the linebacking corps. Outside backer Mike Douglass is coming off his finest season. He was the main bright spot during a year when defensive coordinator John Meyer had to start 13 different linebackers.

WR James Lofton (#80), TE Paul Coffman (#82), RB Gerry Ellis (#31), and DE Ezra Johnson (#90) shine for the Green Bay Packers.

There is concern over the production of the Packer secondary. Interceptions have fallen from 22 to 18 to 13 in the past three seasons. Starr blames the front seven as much as the back four, but admits there could be changes in the starting lineup. Cornerbacks Estus Hood and Mike McCoy will be pushed by second-year man Mark Lee. The Packers may move free safety Johnnie Gray into strong safety Steve Luke's spot and take a look at Mike Jolly.

The drafting of punter Ray Stachowicz in the third round greased the skids for veteran David Beverly and served notice that Starr wants improved play from his special teams. The place-kicking suffered last year as three candidates hit only 11 of 19. Jan Stenerud, age 37, ended up with the job. Free agent Skipper Vernon will get a shot at it. Four men returned punts and six ran back kickoffs. No one was outstanding.

The Packers have the definite advantage of the fifth-place schedule in 1981. In a division with no overwhelming teams, schedule alone should vault the Packers out of the cellar. After 1978, Tampa Bay moved from worst to first with the schedule. After 1979, Detroit moved from last to second.



PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
60	Allerman, Kurt	LB	6-2	222	25	5	Penn. St.
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	221	25	4	Michigan
44	Anderson, Vickey Ray	HB	6-0	205	24	2	Oklahoma
42	Atkins, Steve	HB	6-0	216	24	3	Maryland
62	Aydelette, Buddy	T	6-4	250	24	2	Alabama
58	Beekley, Bruce	LB	6-2	225	24	2	Oregon
77	Butler, Mike	DE	6-5	265	26	5	Kansas
65	Cabral, Brian	LB	6-1	224	24	3	Colorado
88	Cassidy, Ron	WR	6-0	185	23	3	Utah State
82	Coffman, Paul	TE	6-3	218	24	4	Kansas St.
	Coombs, Larry	C/G	6-3	260	23	R	Idaho
	Cornelius, Charles	DB	5-9	178	29	5	Beth-Cookman
52	Cumby, George	LB	6-½	215	24	2	Oklahoma
12	Dickey, Lynn	QB	6-4	220	31	11	Kansas St.
53	Douglass, Mike	LB	6-0	224	26	4	San Diego St.
31	Ellis, Gerry	FB	5-11	216	23	2	Missouri
	Garcia, Frank	P	6-1	190	23	1	Arizona
57	Gofourth, Derrell	G	6-3	260	26	5	Oklahoma St.
24	Gray, Johnnie	FS	5-11	185	27	7	Fullerton
51	Gueno, Jim	LB	6-2	220	27	6	Tulane
69	Harris, Leotis	G	6-1	267	25	4	Arkansas
38	Hood, Estus	DB	5-11	180	25	4	Ill. St.
25	Huckleby, Harlan	RB	6-1	199	23	2	Michigan
40	Ivery, Eddie Lee	HB	6-1	210	23	3	Ga. Tech
71	Jackson, Mel	G	6-1	267	26	7	USC
99	Johnson, Charles	DT	6-1	262	23	3	Maryland
90	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	240	25	5	Morris Brown
21	Jolly, Mike	S	6-3	185	23	2	Michigan
63	Jones, Terry	DT	6-2	259	24	4	Alabama
85	Kimball, Bobby	WR	6-1	190	24	2	Oklahoma
64	Kitson, Syd	G	6-4	252	22	2	Wake Forest
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	265	25	5	Arkansas
79	Koncar, Mark	T	6-5	268	27	5	Colorado
87	Larson, Bill	TE	6-4	225	27	5	Colorado St.
72	Lathrop, Kit	DT	6-5	253	24	3	Arizona St.
22	Lee, Mark	DB	5-11	187	23	2	Washington
80	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	187	24	4	Stanford
46	Luke, Steve	S	6-2	205	27	7	Ohio State
	Mancuso, Mike	QB	6-3	207	23	1	Omaha
54	McCarren, Larry	C	6-3	248	29	9	Illinois
29	McCoy, Mike C	DB	5-11	183	27	6	Colorado
78	Merrill, Casey	DE	6-4	255	23	3	Cal-Davis
34	Middleton, Terrell	HB	6-0	195	25	5	Memphis St.
18	Miller, Mark	QB	6-2	176	24	3	Bowling Green
37	Murphy, Mark	S	6-2	199	22	1	W. Liberty
84	Nixon, Fred	WR	5-11	191	22	2	Oklahoma
56	O'Neil, Ed	LB	6-3	235	28	8	Penn. St.
43	Perkins, Cal	WR	6-2	192	23	2	Tenn. St.
	Prather, Guy	LB	6-2	230	22	1	Grambling
70	Rudzinski, Paul	LB	6-1	220	24	4	Michigan St.
	Savich, Rade	K	5-8	175	25	1	Gen. Mich.
10	Stenerud, Jan	K	6-2	190	37	15	Montana St.
76	Stokes, Tim	T	6-5	252	31	8	Oregon
67	Swanke, Karl	T/C	6-6	251	23	2	Boston Coll.
96	Thomas, Troy	DE	6-6	260	24	1	Gramblin.
89	Thompson, Aundre	WR	6-0	186	28	5	E. Tex. T.
83	Thompson, John	TE	6-3	228	24	3	Utah St.
26	Torkelson, Eric	HB	6-2	210	29	7	Connecticut
20	Turner, Wylie	DB	5-10	182	23	3	Angelo St.
	Vaughan, Ruben	DT	6-2	263	24	2	Colorado
	Vernon, Skip	K	5-10	175	24	1	New Mexico
17	Whitehurst, David	QB	6-2	204	25	5	Furman
50	Wingo, Rich	LB	6-1	230	24	2	Alabar

DRAFTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	
1	Campbell, Rich	QB	6-4	224	22	California
2	Lewis, Gary	TE	6-5	234	23	Arlington
3	Stachowicz, Ray	P	5-11	185	22	Michigan St.
4	Turner, Richard	DT	6-2	260	22	Oklahoma
5	Braggs, Byron	OT	6-4	290	22	Alabama
7	Whitaker, Bill	DB	6-0	182	22	Missouri
8	Werts, Larry	LB	6-2	231	23	Jackson St.
9	Huffman, Tim	OT	6-5	277	22	Notre Dame
10	Hall, Nickie	QB	6-4	205	23	Tulane
11	Valora, Forrest	LB	6-0	236	22	Oklahoma
12	Lewis, Cliff	LB	6-1	226	23	S. Mississippi

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NFC Central

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

No team understands the ups and downs of the Central division better than the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. From worst to first in 1979, the Bucs fell back into a tie for worst in 1980. As is customary in the division, however, they were only three-and-a-half games from first. They entered December with a chance to win the title only to lose their final three games.

In 1981, it is not far-fetched to imagine the division winner with a 9-7 record and the last-place club at 7-9. Although the division is much maligned, it has a chance to win its way into the NFL's corporate heart by turning out five 8-8 clubs, a monument to parity.

Deciding the champion by coin flip or other scientific means would be nothing new for these teams. The title has been determined by some sort of tie-breaker procedure in each of the last four seasons. That has happened only once before in NFL history, by the AFC East in 1975-78. Those ties involved only three teams—Baltimore, Miami, and New England. In the NFC Central, all five clubs have been involved in at least one of the last three tie-breakers.

Over the last three years, the team with the best overall record (Minnesota, 24-23-1) has won only six more games than the team with the lowest overall record (Detroit, 18-30). It is no

wonder it is so difficult to tell the first from the worst and so easy to be either. The solution will arrive when everyone finishes 8-8 and everyone can be both first and worst.

"This is a better division than people think," says Tampa coach John McKay. "The only way to win the title is to do well against the other teams within it. We did that in 1979 and we did not do it last year."

In 1979, the Bucs were 6-2 against the division. In 1980, they were 1-6-1. The 4-4 record compiled outside the division made no difference. In 1981, the Bucs face their toughest schedule in years, including road games to the Super Bowl teams, Philadelphia and Oakland, and home games against San Diego and Atlanta.

Any coach would be enthusiastic with Doug Williams playing quarterback. A unanimous choice as the Bucs' most valuable player last year, Williams is starting only his fourth season, a time when young quarterbacks generally just begin to reach their potential. There may be no other player in the league more valuable to his team than Williams is to the Bucs. Last year, he passed for 20 touchdowns and ran for four more. That accounted for 75 percent of his team's 32 touchdowns and no other NFL player participated in more.

Only three starting quarterbacks threw a lower percentage of interceptions and only two were sacked a fewer number of times. Most lines protect their quarterback; in Tampa, Williams protects his line. The Bucs have given up an NFL low 36 sacks in two years, and Williams's ability to get off passes under pressure is credited more than the line's ability to ward off pressure.

Evidence of Williams's improvement and maturity came during the final half of 1980, when he passed for 2,120 yards, more than any other quarterback in the league in that stretch except San Diego's Dan Fouts. Against Minnesota, he had the most productive passing day of any quarterback in eight years when he completed 30 of 55 passes for 486 yards and four touchdowns.

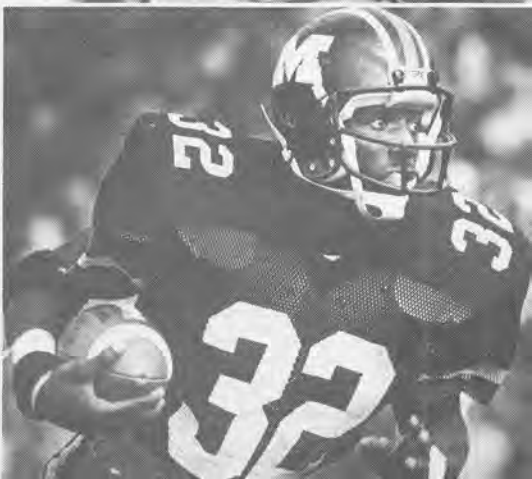
"Doug Williams has every capability you could want from a quarterback," says McKay. "His height and strength enable him to make plays that are extraordinary in the face of a strong rush. If everyone had played his position as well as Doug, our season wouldn't have ended December 20th. He is a good quarterback now but I think he will get even better." Behind Williams, the Bucs have Chuck Fusina, who threw only four passes last season.

Improvement was seen in Tampa Bay's receiving. Youngsters Gordon Jones and Kevin House are expected to be better in 1981. House, backing up starter Isaac Hagins as a rookie, caught five touchdown passes in the last seven games. Jones is showing more signs of consistency. He caught a club record 48 balls and had a pair of 100-yard receiving days.

With Jones specializing in the acrobatic catch and House in the long ball, Williams has two valuable targets. The depth at wide receiver is thin, but is offset somewhat by strength at tight end. Jimmy Giles was a Pro Bowl starter at tight end, even though his 1980 season didn't match his 1979 year. Despite 6-3,

245-pound size, Giles averaged 18.2 yards per catch, best of any tight end in the league and testimony again to Williams's arm. Backup tight end Jim Obradovich gives the Bucs reliable blocking and catching in two-tight end offenses.

The running game is of major concern to McKay. After finishing eighth in the league in rushing in 1979, the Bucs fell to 21st in 1980. Fumbles, injuries, poor blocking, and a lack of touchdowns has forced McKay to make changes for 1981. Williams's four touchdowns rushing were as many as running backs Ricky Bell and Jerry Eckwood got combined. Bell, performing at both fullback and tailback, fell from 1,263 rushing yards to 599 and was hampered by injury. Eckwood had 504 yards and was benched because of fumbles.



1980 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Yepremian, 79 points on 16 field goals and 31 PAT's... 9th	
RUSHING—Bell, 174 carries for 599 yards, 3.4 avg... 2	
TD's... 15th	
PASSING—Williams, 254 of 521 attempts for 3,396 yards, 20 TD's... 11th	
RECEIVING—Jones, 48 receptions for 669 yards, 13.9 avg... 5 TD's... 24th	
INTERCEPTIONS—Washington, 4 for 30 yards, 7.5 avg... 24th	
PUNTING—Blanchard, 88 punts, 42.3 avg... longest 62 yards... 2nd	
PUNT RETURNS—Reece, 57 for 313 yards, 5.5 avg... 17th	
KICKOFF RETURNS—Davis, 44 for 951 yards, 21.6 avg... 8th	

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	8 CINCINNATI (N)
	15 NEW ENGLAND (N)
	22 HOUSTON (N)
	28 At Atlanta (N)

1981 SCHEDULE 1980 SCORES

September	5 MINNESOTA (N)	10-21
	13 At Kansas City	—
	20 At Chicago	0-23
	27 ST. LOUIS	—
October	4 DETROIT	10-24
	11 At Green Bay	20-17
	18 At Oakland	—
	25 At Philadelphia	—
November	1 CHICAGO	13-14
	8 At Minnesota	30-38
	15 DENVER	—
	22 GREEN BAY	(OT) 14-14
	29 At New Orleans	—
December	6 ATLANTA	—
	13 SAN DIEGO	—
	20 At Detroit	14-27

Buccaneers: QB Doug Williams with coach John McKay (top left), TE Jimmy Giles, RB Ricky Bell, and No. 2 draftee James Wilder (at right)

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ACCEPTED

McKay says Bell will move permanently to Eckwood's tailback spot for 1981, leaving the fullbacking to veteran Johnny Davis and second-round draftee James Wilder. Davis never fully recovered from a preseason ankle injury. Wilder was the second-rated fullback in the draft on most reports, although injuries limited his production at Missouri. Backup runners Rick Berns and Tony Davis could be factors this year. The Bucs fumbled 28 times last year and recovered only seven of them.

"It's something there's just no excuse for," said McKay.

Receiving by the backs improved by 50 percent, but that didn't help the rushing attack.



"I don't know for sure whether our reduced yardage on the ground was more from injuries and changes in the offensive line or because the runners had a bad year. I do know that our running backs had a poor year blocking and that it is tough to make a running attack go when the back without the ball is not contributing."

Injuries on the offensive line hurt the Bucs' continuity. They will welcome the return of third-year man Greg Roberts, who was the team's most experienced guard last year until suffering a knee injury. Roberts will team with 1980 No. 1 draft choice Ray Snell to give the Bucs the most promising young duo in the division. Center Steve Wilson and punt snapper Dana Nafziger also will be back after injuries forced the Bucs to go with rookie Jim Leonard at both spots. Dave Reavis and Charley Hannah are capable starting tackles and McKay hopes eighth-round draft choice Denver Johnson makes the team to back them up.

The dropoff in the running game in 1980 paled in comparison to the dropoff of the Buccaneer defense. They had been ranked No. 1 in the league in 1979, riding that prowess into the playoffs. In 1980, they fell all the way to 20th. McKay blamed his linebackers and promptly drafted Pitt's Hugh Green No. 1 when he unexpectedly got the chance.

Speculation was that McKay would draft either a defensive back or a pass rusher, because the Bucs need help in both areas. But Green has enough athletic talent to do both. In the 3-4 alignment, Green can blitz or line up at end. In coverage situations, McKay says the Bucs might not need to use a "nickel back," because Green can cover.

"I'm not sure there has been a linebacker ever so dominating in college. We probably would prefer to play him outside, but he could play inside," McKay says.

Inside, Green would challenge Dewey Selmon or Richard Wood. Outside, it is David Lewis and Cecil Johnson. Of the four, Johnson appears the most vulnerable.

"David and I need somebody pushing us," Johnson said. "We haven't had anybody. It's got to make us a better team."

The return of nose tackle Randy Crowder from injury is supposed to help, too. With Crowder out, David Logan filled in admirably, but defenses were better able to concentrate on the great Lee Roy Selmon. Selmon had 97 tackles, nine sacks, and an incredible 72 quarterback "hurries" in another All-Pro year.

McKay would like more production out of the left side, where Bill Kollar played most of the year. Dave Stalls and Bruce Radford are candidates to start. The Bucs made only 24 sacks, down from 40 in 1979.

The Bucs allowed the lowest average gain per catch (10.6 yards) last year, but in protecting against the bomb, they allowed 63 percent completions. Right cornerback Mike Washington and free safety Cedric Brown were picked to an All-NFC Central division team and join cornerback Curtis Jordan and strong safety Mark Cotney in a fairly stable secondary. Washington was not beaten deep the entire season and picked off a team high four passes. Jordan broke up 21 passes, but will be challenged this year by veteran Norris Thomas or

Top draft choice Hugh Green (#99), OG Ray Snell (#72), and DE Lee Roy Selmon (#63) of the Tampa Bay Bucs

possibly by fourth-round draft choice John Holt. Brown nursed injuries last year, but is one of the league's best free safeties. Cotney is the only player to have appeared in every game in Tampa Bay's history. Neal Colzie and Danny Reece provide experienced reserve strength.

Special teams have been a perennial shortcoming for the Bucs, although McKay calls veteran punter Tom Blanchard and ancient place-kicker Garo Yepremian (37) "solid." The kick returning of Gary Davis is satisfactory, but McKay hopes rookie Holt can replace Reece as a punt returner. Coverage of both kickoffs and punts ranks low in the league.

"If we don't win more than five games this year, then we've done a below-mediocre job coaching or we were way below mediocre in our job of evaluating players."

It may not take many more than five victories to finish on top of the NFC Central. Or on the bottom.

BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

NFL										
no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college			
69	Austin, Darrell	OL	6-4	255	30	7	So. Carolina			
42	Bell, Ricky	RB	6-2	215	26	5	USC			
36	Berns, Rick	RB	6-2	205	25	3	Nebraska			
16	Blanchard, Tom	P	6-0	185	32	11	Oregon			
52	Brantley, Scot	LB	6-1	230	23	2	Florida			
55	Brown, Aaron	LB	6-2	235	25	4	Ohio State			
34	Brown, Cedric	S	6-2	205	27	5	Kent State			
87	Carter, Gerald	WR	6-1	185	24	2	Texas A&M			
20	Colzie, Neal	S	6-2	195	28	7	Ohio St.			
33	Cotney, Mark	S	6-0	205	29	7	Cameron			
71	Crowder, Randy	DT	6-3	250	29	6	Penn St.			
28	Davis, Gary	RB	5-10	210	27	6	Cal Poly-SLO			
38	Davis, Johnny	RB	6-1	235	25	4	Alabama			
27	Davis, Tony	RB	5-11	210	28	6	Nebraska			
43	Eckwood, Jerry	RB	6-0	200	27	3	Arkansas			
83	Flowers, Jackie	WR	6-0	190	23	1	Florida St.			
14	Fusina, Chuck	QB	6-1	195	24	3	Penn St.			
88	Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	245	27	5	Alcorn St.			
81	Hagins, Isaac	WR	5-9	180	27	5	Southern			
90	Hamilton, Wayne	DL	6-5	245	23	1	Alabama			
73	Hannah, Charley	T	6-6	260	26	5	Alabama			
59	Hawkins, Andy	LB	6-2	220	23	2	Texas A&I			
89	House, Kevin	WR	6-1	175	24	2	So. Illinois			
56	Johnson, Cecil	LB	6-2	230	26	5	Pittsburgh			
84	Jones, Gordon	WR	6-0	190	24	3	Pittsburgh			
25	Jordan, Curtis	CB	6-2	205	27	6	Texas Tech			
77	Kollar, Bill	DL	6-4	250	29	8	Montana St.			
62	Leonard, Jim	C	6-3	250	24	2	Santa Clara			
57	Lewis, David	LB	6-4	245	27	5	USC			
79	Lewis, Reggie	DE	6-3	255	25	3	No. Texas St.			
76	Logan, David	DT	6-2	250	25	3	Pittsburgh			
51	Nafziger, Dana	LB	6-1	220	28	4	Cal Poly-SLO			
86	Obradovich, Jim	TE	6-2	230	28	7	USC			
78	Radford, Bruce	DE	6-5	260	26	3	Grambling			
75	Reavis, Dave	T	6-5	260	31	7	Arkansas			
61	Roberts, Greg	G	6-3	260	25	3	Oklahoma			
80	Samuels, Tony	TE	6-4	235	27	5	Beth-Cookman			
74	Sanders, Gene	OL	6-3	260	25	3	Texas A&M			
58	Selmon, Dewey	LB	6-1	240	28	6	Oklahoma			
63	Selmon, Lee Roy	DE	6-3	250	27	6	Oklahoma			
82	Shumann, Mike	WR	6-0	175	26	4	Florida St.			
72	Snell, Ray	G	6-3	255	23	2	Wisconsin			
65	Stalls, Dave	DE	6-4	250	26	5	No. Colorado			
85	Stewart, Joe	WR	5-11	180	26	3	Missouri			
41	Thomas, Norris	CB	5-11	185	27	5	S. Mississippi			
	Vincent, Ted	DT	6-4	265	25	4	Wichita St.			
40	Washington, Mike	CB	6-2	200	28	6	Alabama			
12	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	215	26	4	Grambling			
50	Wilson, Steve	C	6-3	265	27	6	Georgia			
54	Wood, Richard	LB	6-2	230	28	7	USC			
68	Yarno, George	OL	6-2	255	24	3	Washington St.			
1	Yepremian, Garo	PK	5-8	175	37	14	None			

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Green, Hugh	LB	6-2	225	22	Pittsburgh
2	Wilder, James	FB	6-2	200	23	Missouri
4	Holt, John	DB	5-11	180	22	W. Texas St.
8	Johnson, Denver	OT	6-6	260	22	Tulsa
9	Ford, Mike	QB	6-3	220	22	SMU
10	McCune, Ken	DE	6-6	250	21	Texas
11	Smith, Johnny Ray	DB	5-9	175	22	Lamar
12	White, Brad	DT	6-2	250	22	Tennessee

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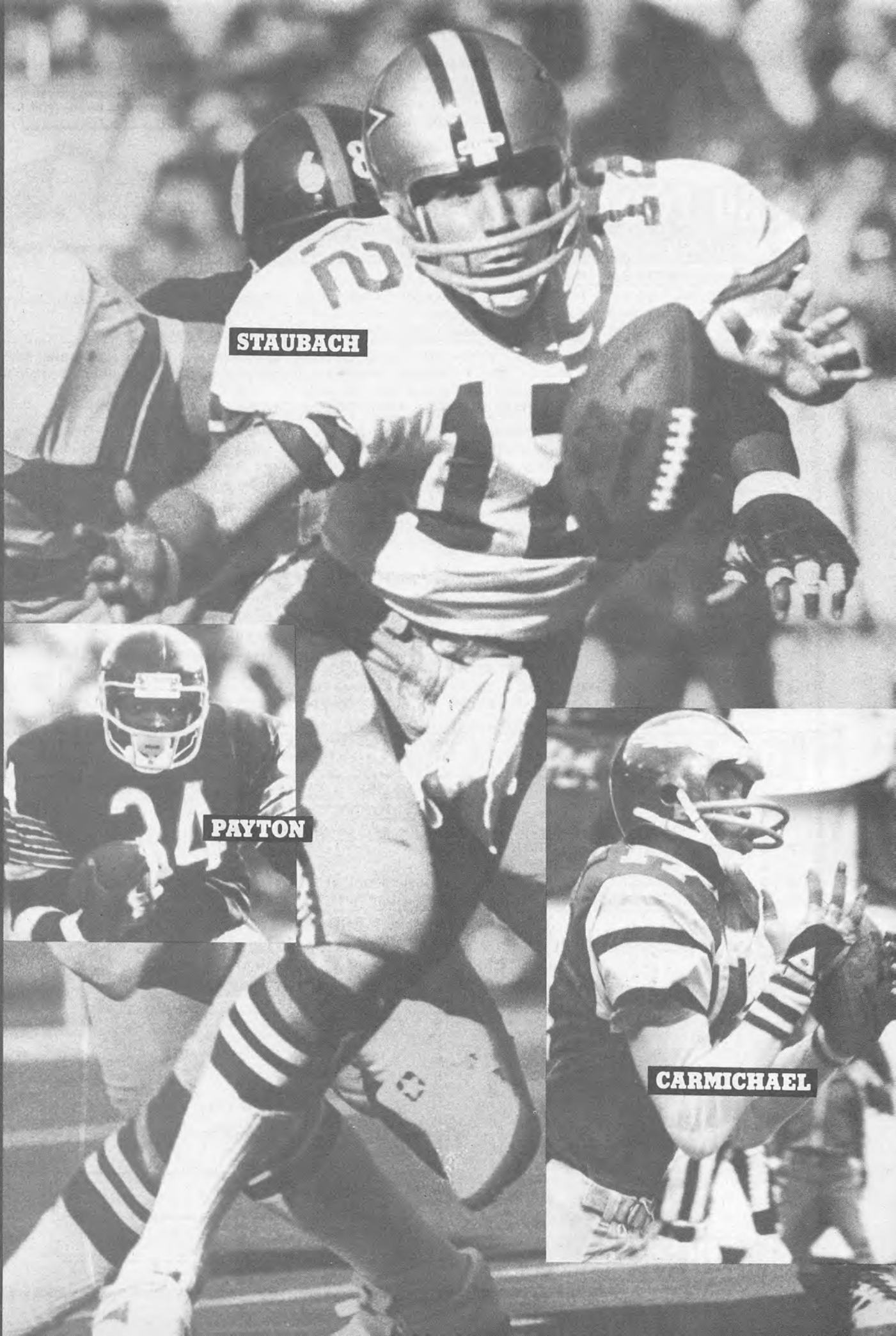
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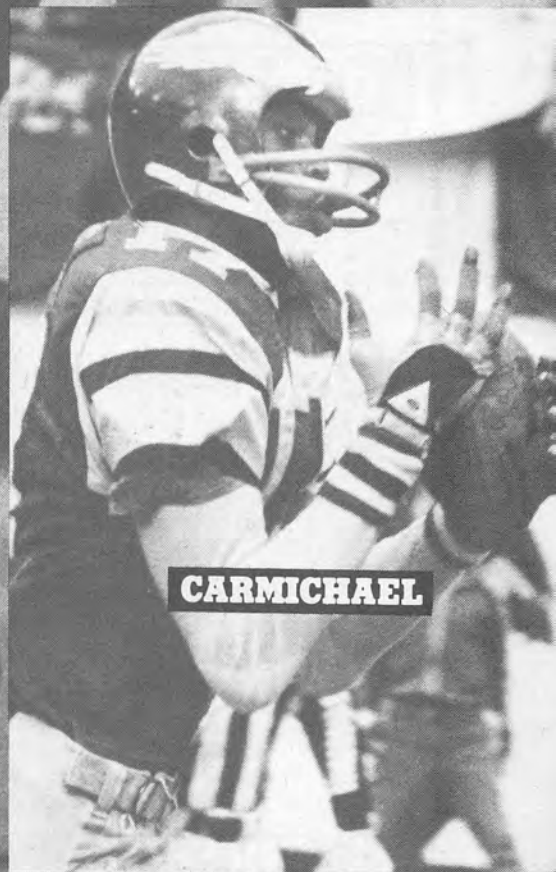
HALL OF FAME



STAUBACH



PAYTON



CARMICHAEL

top 20 rankings

For the third straight year, Harold Jackson of the New England Patriots continued his rapid climb in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's top 20 pass receiving rankings.

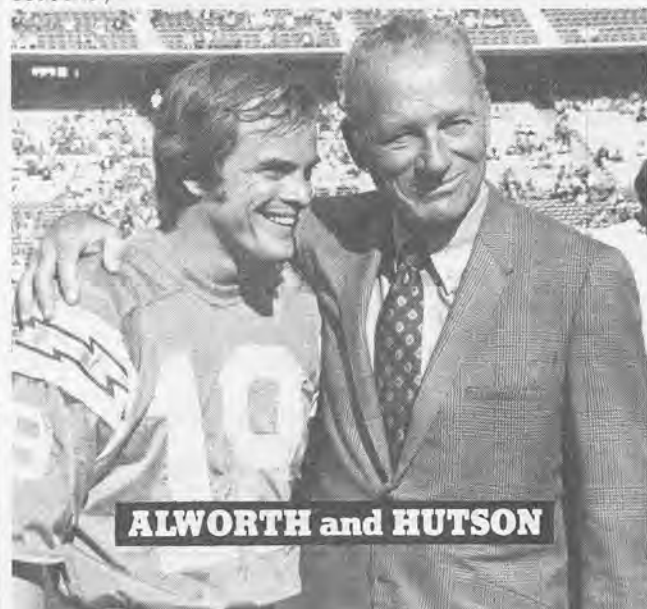
The slick 5-10, 175-pound speedster grabbed 35 passes during the 1980 season, his 13th in the NFL, to move past Billy Howton (503 receptions) and Bobby Mitchell (521 receptions) into seventh place in the all-time standings. Jackson now has 532 catches and, early in the 1981 season, can be expected to challenge the sixth-place ranking of Hall of Famer Lance Alworth, who has 542 career grabs.

A year ago, Jackson was the only active player among the top 20 receivers. In 1980, however, Harold Carmichael of the Philadelphia Eagles and Haven Moses of the Denver Broncos entered the exclusive rankings. Carmichael, who ran up a record string of at least one reception in 127 straight games before he was shut out in the final game of the 1980 season, moved all the way to 15th place with 48 catches during the season. He now has 455 receptions. In his climb, the 6-8 Eagles star moved past Bobby Joe Conrad, Mike Ditka, Paul Warfield, Carroll Dale, Roy Jefferson, and Pete Retzlaff.

Moses upped his career total to 433 receptions and moved into 19th place, ahead of Warfield and Ditka, both of whom remained on the list with 427 receptions.

In 1981, however, there likely will be a number of new faces among the top 20 receivers. Of those players active in 1980 who are expected to play in 1981, there are four prime candidates for the top 20 list. They are Charlie Joiner of the San Diego Chargers (425 receptions), Bob Tucker of the Minnesota Vikings (421 receptions), Reggie Rucker of the Cleveland Browns (420 receptions), and Ahmad Rashad of the Vikings (414 catches). Joiner, with 71 grabs in 1980, made particularly strong strides toward the top 20.

In four other career-receiving categories, the leaderships remained unchanged. They include: reception yardage—Don Maynard, 11,834; average gain per catch—Paul Warfield, 20.1 yards; average receptions per season—Lionel Taylor, 63*; touchdown receptions—Don Hutson, 99. (*While Taylor played 10 pro seasons, he played as a wide receiver only nine seasons.)



ALWORTH and HUTSON

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

The Chicago Bears' Walter Payton now rates as the prime candidate to eventually surpass Jim Brown as pro football's all-time leading rushing.

After just six seasons, Payton has run for 8,386 yards. If he can continue his 1,398-yard-per-season pace, he would move ahead of Brown's long-standing record late in the 1983 season. Brown amassed 12,312 yards in his nine NFL seasons. Surpassing Brown's stupendous total—a record that has remained untouchable for almost two decades—will be no easy task for Payton, however. For years, it appeared as though O.J. Simpson would challenge the Brown record. But when O.J. retired after 11 pro seasons in 1979, his 11,236-yard career mark was over 1,000 yards shy of the record.

LEADING RECEIVERS

RANK	PLAYER	YRS.	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD
1	Charley Taylor	13	649	9110	14.0	79
2	Don Maynard	15	633	11,834	18.7	88
3	Raymond Berry	13	631	9275	14.7	68
4	Fred Biletnikoff	14	589	8974	15.2	76
5	Lionel Taylor	10	567	7195	12.7	45
6	Lance Alworth	11	542	10,266	18.9	85
7	HAROLD JACKSON	13	532	9577	18.0	75
8	Bobby Mitchell	11	521	7954	15.3	65
9	Billy Howton	12	503	8459	16.8	61
10	Tommy McDonald	12	495	8410	17.0	84
11	Don Hutson	11	488	7991	16.4	99
12	Jackie Smith	16	480	7918	16.5	40
13	Art Powell	10	479	8046	16.8	81
14	Boyd Dowler	12	474	7270	15.4	40
15	HAROLD CARMICHAEL	9	455	6895	15.2	66
16	Pete Retzlaff	11	452	7412	16.4	47
17	Roy Jefferson	12	451	7539	16.7	52
18	Carroll Dale	14	438	8277	18.9	52
19	HAVEN MOSES	13	433	7845	18.1	55
20T	Paul Warfield	13	427	8565	20.1	85
20T	Mike Ditka	12	427	5812	13.6	43

ACTIVE PLAYERS IN CAPS. PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME MEMBERS IN ITALIC.

Franco Harris of the Pittsburgh Steelers has also been considered a prime candidate, but his chances diminished considerably during the 1980 season, when he gained just 789 yards. It was only the second time in nine years that Franco failed to break the 1,000-yard barrier. Harris now has 9,352 yards in nine seasons and ranks with Brown, Simpson, and Payton as the only four members of the top 20 to average more than 1,000 yards a campaign. Payton is tops in this department with his 1,398-yard seasonal pace. Brown averaged 1,368 yards in nine seasons while Harris is averaging 1,039 yards. Simpson's seasonal average was 1,021 yards.

Harris did move up to fourth place in the all-time standings during the 1980 season. He would rank in third place if Joe Perry's AAFC accumulation (1,345 yards in two seasons) were not included. As it is, Perry is the third-place rusher with 9,723 yards gained in 16 years. Payton also moved up in 1980 to sixth place, just behind Jim Taylor (8,597 yards) and ahead of Larry Csonka (8,081 yards) and Leroy Kelly (7,274 yards).

Lydell Mitchell (11th place, 6,534 yards), Lawrence McCutcheon (12th place, 6,440 yards), Calvin Hill (16th, 6,060 yards), and Chuck Foreman (17th, 5,950 yards) all were active in 1980. Except for McCutcheon, who moved from the 14th spot to No. 12, there were no position changes involved.

Pro Football Hall of Famer Otto Graham, whose star-studded career saw him excel with the Cleveland Browns in both the All-America Football Conference and the National Football League, continues to rank as history's all-time leading passer with an 86.8 rating.

Graham's position in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's top 20 ratings was assured when Roger Staubach of the Dallas Cowboys retired before the 1980 campaign. As it is, Staubach, who has a rating score of 83.5, ranks as the best passer among those players who saw action only in the NFL.

LEADING RUSHERS

RANK	PLAYER	YRS.	NO.	YDS.	AVG.	TD
1	Jim Brown	9	2359	12,312	5.2	106
2	O.J. Simpson	11	2404	11,236	4.7	61
3	Joe Perry	16	1929	9723	5.0	71
4	FRANCO HARRIS	9	2220	9352	4.2	76
5	Jim Taylor	10	1941	8597	4.4	83
6	WALTER PAYTON	6	1865	8386	4.5	65
7	Larry Csonka	11	1891	8081	4.3	64
8	Leroy Kelly	10	1727	7274	4.2	74
9	John Riggins	9	1666	6822	4.1	42
10	John Henry Johnson	13	1571	6803	4.3	48
11	LYDELL MITCHELL	9	1675	6534	3.9	30
12	LAWRENCE McCUTCHEON	9	1487	6440	4.3	26
13	Floyd Little	9	1641	6323	3.8	43
14	Don Perkins	8	1500	6217	4.1	42
15	Ken Willard	10	1622	6105	3.8	45
16	CALVIN HILL	11	1448	6060	4.2	42
17	CHUCK FOREMAN	8	1556	5950	3.8	53
18	Larry Brown	8	1530	5875	3.8	35
19	Steve Van Buren	8	1320	5860	4.3	69
20	Bill Brown	14	1649	5838	3.4	52

With Graham, Staubach, Sonny Jurgensen (82.8), Len Dawson (82.6), and Fran Tarkenton (80.5) all retired and their upper positions in the rankings safe for at least the time being, the big news in the Hall's exhibition in 1980 was the rapid climb of the Browns' Brian Sipe and the San Diego Chargers' Dan Fouts from off the board to well up into the standings.

Sipe, in particular, made an impressive run toward the top from a 26th-place tie to a No. 13 ranking. He started the campaign with a 71.9 career rating and wound up with 77.1 points, just 1.2 below eighth-place Ken Stabler of the Houston Oilers. Sipe led all NFL passers with a 91.4 ranking in 1980 and captured more than one NFL Player of the Year honors.

Fouts also made impressive strides, moving from a 73.0 point score and a No. 21 career ranking to a 75.5 rating and a No. 14 position. In the dash to 13th and 14th place, respectively, Sipe and Fouts passed such top 20 tenants as Frank Albert, Greg Landry, Earl Morrall, Y.A. Tittle, Roman Gabriel, Don Meredith, Sid Luckman, and Norm Van Brocklin.

Four other active passers managed to stay on the top 20 list in 1980. Baltimore's Bert Jones fell from a sixth-place tie and a 80.3 rating to seventh place with a 79.2 score. Hall of Famer Bart Starr took over undisputed possession of sixth place in the



LEADING SCORERS

RANK	PLAYER	YRS.	TD	XP	FG	TOTAL
1	George Blanda	26	9	943	335	2002
2	Lou Groza	21	1	810	264	1608
3	Jim Turner	16	1	521	304	1439
4	Jim Bakken	17	0	534	282	1380
5	Fred Cox	15	0	519	282	1365
6	JAN STENERUD	14	0	397	282	1243
7	Gino Cappelletti	11	42	350	176	1130
8	DON COCKROFT	13	0	432	216	1080
9	GARO YEPREMIAN	13	0	438	208	1062
10	Bruce Gossett	11	0	374	219	1031
11	Sam Baker	15	2	428	179	977
12	Lou Michaels	13	1	386	187	955
13	Roy Gerela	11	0	351	184	903
14	Bobby Walston	12	46	365	80	881
15	Pete Gogolak	10	0	344	173	863
16	Errol Mann	11	0	315	177	846
17	Don Hutson	11	105	172	7	823
18	MARK MOSELEY	10	0	262	170	722
19	Paul Hornung	9	62	190	66	760
20	Jim Brown	9	126	0	0	756

process. Stabler lost 1.6 points on his career score but maintained his eighth-place ranking with a 78.3 score. Ken Anderson of Cincinnati dropped from ninth place to tenth with a 78.0 rating. Bob Griese saw only brief action with the Miami Dolphins but did improve his rating from 77.0 to 77.3.

Career leadership among the top forward passers is determined by a mathematical formula based on quality of performance, rather than quantity, in four different categories: percentage of completions, percentage of touchdowns, percentage of interceptions, and average yards per attempt.

Don Cockroft and Garo Yepremian each moved up one place among history's top 20 scorers, and Mark Moseley entered the select circle for the first time during the 1980 National Football League season.

Cockroft, in his 13th season with the Cleveland Browns, managed to keep just ahead of Yepremian, who moved to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for the 1980 campaign after spending 1979 with the New Orleans Saints. The Browns' big point-maker, one of the few conventional kickers remaining in the NFL added 87 points in 1980 to raise his career total to 1,080.

Yepremian, also in his 13th pro season, scored 87 points for a career accumulation of 1,062. He now ranks No. 9 in the

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standings. Cockcroft and Yepremian became the ninth and tenth players, respectively, to score more than 1,000 points. Bruce Gossett, who scored 1,031 points in 11 NFL seasons, dropped from eighth place to the No. 10 spot as a result.

Mark Moseley of the Washington Redskins, in his tenth pro campaign, became the first new player to join the top 20 scoring derby since Errol Mann entered the elite group in 1977. Moseley, after a slow start, wound up with 81 points in 1980 and, with 772 career markers, he now rates No. 18. He displaced Tom Davis, who had 738 points, to get on the list and then also moved ahead of Paul Hornung (760 points) and Jim Brown (756 points). Brown, however, remains distinctive as the

LEADING PASSERS (MINIMUM 1500 ATTEMPTS)

RANK	PLAYER	YRS.	ATT.	COMP.	YDS.	TD	INT.	RATING POINTS
1	Otto Graham	10	2626	1464	23,584	174	135	86.8
2	Roger Staubach	11	2958	1685	22,700	153	109	83.5
3	Sonny Jurgensen	18	4262	2433	32,224	255	189	82.8
4	Len Dawson	19	3741	2136	28,711	239	183	82.6
5	Fran Tarkenton	18	6467	3686	47,003	342	266	80.5
6	Bart Starr	16	3149	1808	24,718	152	138	80.3
7	BERT JONES	8	2038	1138	14,569	101	77	79.2
8	KEN STABLER	11	2938	1779	22,280	163	171	78.3
9	Johnny Unitas	18	5186	2830	40,239	290	253	78.2
10	KEN ANDERSON	10	3060	1736	21,808	131	114	78.0
11	Frank Ryan	13	2133	1090	16,042	149	111	77.7
12	BOB GRIESE	14	3429	1926	25,092	192	172	77.3
13	BRIAN SIPE	7	2191	1242	15,207	107	93	77.1
14	DAN FOUTS	8	2594	1489	19,454	112	125	75.5
15	Norm Van Brocklin	12	2895	1553	23,611	173	178	75.3
16	Sid Luckman	12	1744	904	14,686	137	132	75.0
17	Don Meredith	9	2308	1170	17,199	135	111	74.7
18	Roman Gabriel	16	4498	2366	29,444	201	149	74.5
19	Y.A. Tittle	17	4395	2427	33,070	242	248	74.4
20	Earl Morrall	21	2689	1379	20,809	161	148	74.2

alltime touchdown scorer with 126. All of his pro scoring came on touchdowns. No other player here can make this claim.

Jan Stenerud, who had excelled for 13 years with the Kansas City Chiefs, saw his only 1980 action late in the season with the Green Bay Packers. His 12 points not only improved his career total to 1,243, but his three field goals enabled him to move into a three-way tie for third place in career field goals with 282. Jim Bakken, who ranks No. 4 in the top 20, and Fred Cox (No. 5) also have 282 three-pointers. All-time scoring leader George Blanda, with 2,002 points, also has a career-high 335 field goals while Jim Turner, a 1980 retiree, ranks second in that department with 304.

PASSES ATTEMPTED

1. Fran Tarkenton	6467
2. Johnny Unitas	5186
3. JIM HART	4704
4. John Hadl	4687
5. Roman Gabriel	4498
6. John Brodie	4491
7. Y.A. Tittle	4395
8. Norm Snead	4353
9. Sonny Jurgensen	4262
10. George Blanda	4007
11. Joe Namath	3762
12. Len Dawson	3741
13. Bobby Layne	3700
14. BOB GRIESE	3429
15. Charley Johnson	3392
16. CRAIG MORTON	3384
17. Babe Parilli	3330
18. TERRY BRADSHAW	3283
19. Bart Starr	3149
20. ARCHIE MANNING	3096

PASSES COMPLETED

1. Fran Tarkenton	3686
2. Johnny Unitas	2830
3. John Brodie	2469
4. Sonny Jurgensen	2433
5. Y.A. Tittle	2427
6. JIM HART	2387
7. Roman Gabriel	2366
8. John Hadl	2363
9. Norm Snead	2276
10. Len Dawson	2136
11. BOB GRIESE	1926
12. George Blanda	1911
13. Joe Namath	1886
14. Bobby Layne	1814
15. CRAIG MORTON	1810
16. Bart Starr	1808
17. KEN STABLER	1779
18. Charley Johnson	1737
19. KEN ANDERSON	1736
20. ARCHIE MANNING	1692

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

1. Fran Tarkenton	342
2. Johnny Unitas	290
3. Sonny Jurgensen	255
4. John Hadl	244
5. Y.A. Tittle	242
6. Ken Dawson	239
7. George Blanda	236
8. John Brodie	214
9. Roman Gabriel	201
10T Norm Snead	196
10T Bobby Layne	196
12. JIM HART	193
13. BOB GRIESE	192
14. Sammy Baugh	186
15. Babe Parilli	176
16. Otto Graham	174
17T Norm Van Brocklin	173
17T Charley Conerly	173
17T Joe Namath	173
20. TERRY BRADSHAW	171

YARDS PASSING

1. Fran Tarkenton	47,003
2. Johnny Unitas	40,239
3. John Hadl	33,513
4. Y.A. Tittle	33,070
5. Sonny Jurgensen	32,224
6. JIM HART	32,154
7. John Brodie	32,548
8. Norm Snead	30,797
9. Roman Gabriel	29,444
10. Len Dawson	28,711
11. Joe Namath	27,663
12. George Blanda	26,920
13. Bobby Layne	26,768
14. BOB GRIESE	25,092
15. Bart Starr	24,718
16. CRAIG MORTON	24,520
17. Charley Johnson	24,410
18. Norm Van Brocklin	23,611
19. Otto Graham	23,584
20. TERRY BRADSHAW	23,257



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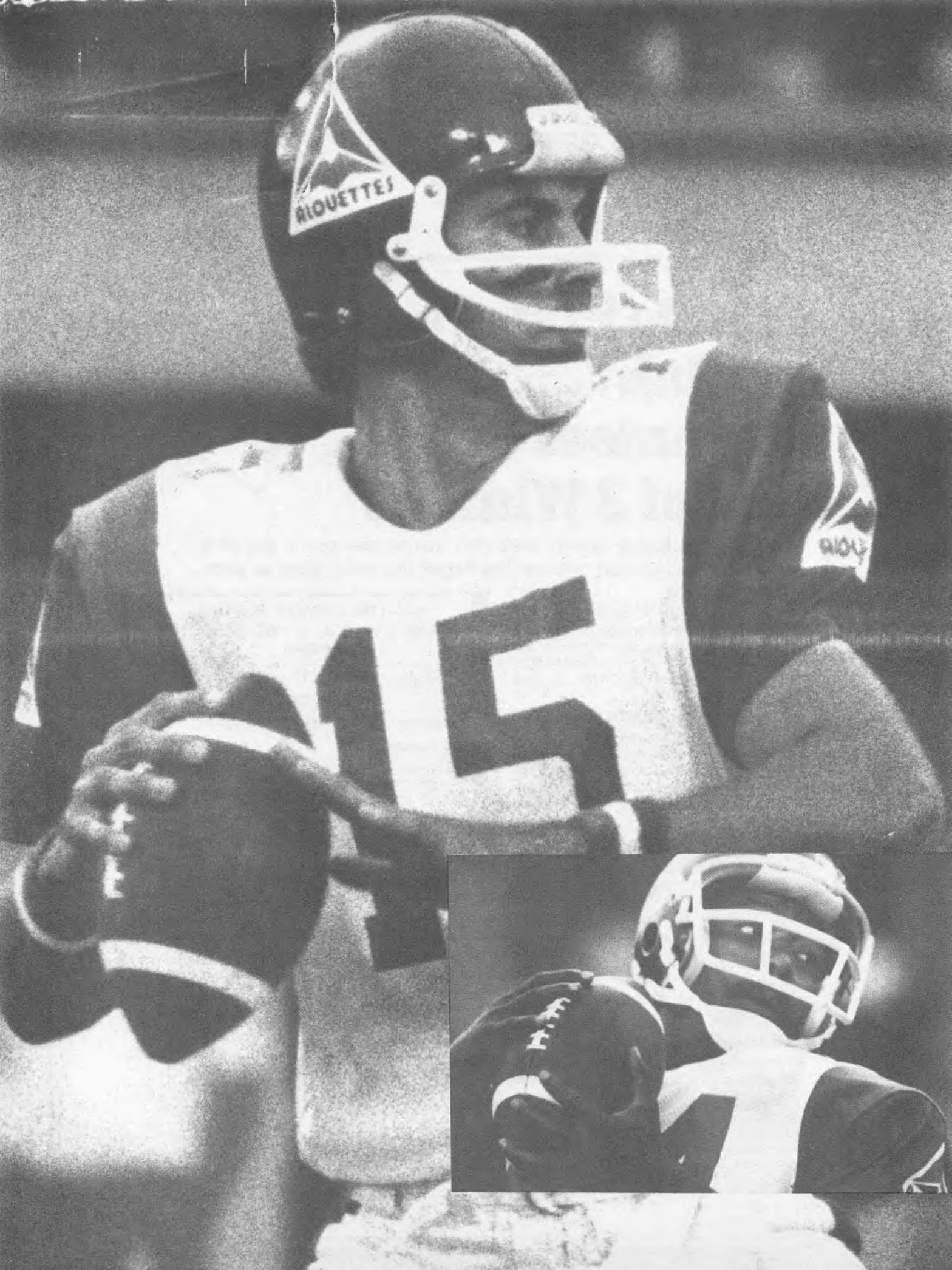
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CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Canadian Football League's Eastern Conference has, justifiably or not, earned a reputation as the league's weak sister. Certainly, those who would argue that the five Western Conference clubs play a more exciting brand of football than their four Eastern counterparts can haul out the statistic sheets to support their contention.

Under almost every heading the West last year came out on top. Western teams scored more points and gave up fewer. They ran and passed for more yardage and scored more touchdowns. But those were the overall figures. Broken down, the West's edge wasn't as significant. For example, the Western teams scored 3.2 points more per game than Eastern teams. They passed for 24 yards more per game and rushed for 26 additional yards. There were 64 more touchdowns scored by Western clubs, but on a per-team basis the edge over the season was a mere six TD's more. Sliced even finer, it could be said that Western teams scored .375 more touchdowns per game than the supposedly less exciting Eastern teams.

Whether the Western teams actually were able to bring their fans to their feet more often than their Eastern rivals is moot. The important thing going into the 1981 season is that Eastern conference supporters are looking forward, with eager anticipation, to reversing that offensive trend.

The reason for the optimism is the sudden injection of quality quarterbacks into the lineups of three of the four Eastern teams. The biggest catch of the day—and, strangely enough, all three clubs acquired their new quarterbacks on Monday, April 27—was the Montreal Alouettes' landing of National Football League star Vince Ferragamo.

The on-again, off-again affair between Ferragamo and the Alouettes began back in mid-February when self-made Vancouver millionaire Nelson Skalbania made his first move to purchase the Als from Sam Berger. At that time Ferragamo, who had played out his option with Los Angeles and expressed disenchantment with the Rams' new wage offer, was on the negotiation list of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. But it soon became apparent that the Ticats weren't serious about signing the pivot. On the day Ferragamo came to Hamilton, on his way home from a speaking engagement in Thunder Bay, Ont., Ticat general manager Ralph Sazio was basking in the sun on a beach in Barbados and team owner Harold Ballard was in St. Louis with his other toy, the Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League.

That's when Skalbania got into the act. He originally sought to buy 50 percent of the Als, but then upped the offer to purchase the club lock, stock, and barrel. However, even before the league's board of governors had approved the purchase of the club, he began making



by RICK MATSUMOTO

noises about signing Ferragamo. Then, two days after he got approval, he announced he'd signed the quarterback to a four-year contract. The only problem was that Ferragamo's rights still belonged to Hamilton and Skalbania seemed to neglect the fact that "signed" and "agreed to terms" are entirely different.

The Als got their new boss partially off the hook by sending wide receiver Keith Baker and running back David Green, the former Schenley Award winner who had become persona non grata with the Als, to Hamilton in a conditional trade. The condition was that the Als would, in fact, get Ferragamo's signature on a CFL contract. It finally happened, but not before four weeks of almost daily yes-he-will, no-he-won't speculative stories appeared in newspapers and on television and radio from Montreal to Los Angeles.

Skalbania reportedly opened up his vault to the tune of \$400,000 per season for four years to acquire Ferragamo, but he also left enough in there to attract the Chicago Bears' James Scott and the Houston Oilers' Billy (White Shoes) Johnson to catch Ferragamo's passes.

The Als also created considerable commo-

tion by attempting to lure University of Georgia freshman All-America Herschel Walker out of school and into a professional career. In the end Walker elected to remain in school.

All the offseason excitement, however, wasn't being generated in Montreal. In Toronto, the perennial doormat Argonauts are desperately attempting to change their image and head coach Willie Wood declared that to accomplish that goal he'd need a bona fide major-league quarterback. According to his scouting reports, the best of the available experienced quarterbacks was the Miami Dolphins' reliever, Don Strock. Thus, talks began with Strock as soon as he became a free agent on February 1. It was only a little while later, however, that news came out of Ottawa that veteran Rough Rider quarterback Condredge Holloway wanted out of the capital.

All of a sudden, the Argos found themselves negotiating with Strock and his agents on one hand and talking trade with the Riders on the other. Until almost the final moment it appeared that the Argos would not land Holloway, the University of Tennessee star who came to Canada in 1975 after rejecting a baseball career. The Riders were insisting on obtaining the Argos' fine Canadian tackle Kevin Powell as part of the trade and Wood was just as adamant that he would not let him go.

However, it was Strock, through his agents, who finally forced Wood to change his stance. Negotiations with Strock had stagnated as the quarterback sought guarantees in his contract. Finally, Wood could wait no longer.

"I was afraid we were getting into a situation where we wouldn't get either one of them (Strock or Holloway)," said Wood. Thus they made the trade for Holloway and kissed Strock goodbye. Holloway was delighted with the move. His contract jumped from \$60,000 with Ottawa to more than \$125,000 with the Argos. Furthermore, he had been battered and bruised (ribs and both knees) behind the ever-changing Rider offensive line the past two seasons and felt his survival chances would be better under Wood's offensive system.

While Holloway was in Toronto being introduced to the news media, another press conference had just concluded 50 miles away in Hamilton. Holloway's friend and former quarterbacking partner with Ottawa, Tom Clements, had spent the morning chatting with reporters after signing a five-year contract (the same length as Holloway's) with the Tiger-Cats. Just 24 hours earlier, the former Notre Dame star had cleared NFL waivers after an unfortunate season with the Kansas City Chiefs and had agreed to return to the CFL.

Clements joined Ottawa the same year as Holloway, but won the starting job and went on to be named rookie of the year. Over the next three years, however, he found himself sharing the job more and more with Holloway. Finally, prior to the 1979 season, after Holloway had been named the Eastern all-star pivot, Clements asked to be traded.

The Montreal Alouettes signed three of the National Football League's stars: QB Vince Ferragamo and WR's Billy Johnson (left) and James Scott (above).

Ottawa obliged by shipping him to exile in Saskatchewan. But by midseason he escaped to Hamilton where he immediately sparked the Ticats to a playoff berth and regained his position as an all-star. The Ticats attempted to sign him to a new contract, offering \$1.3 million. He turned it down to try his luck in the NFL.

The quarterback changes in the East aren't the only alterations in the CFL as it heads into the 1981 season. For the first time in its long history, the CFL's nine teams will compete in a fully interlocking 16-game schedule. A team will play two games (home and away) against each of the other eight clubs. In the past, teams played clubs in the other conference once during the season, while meeting teams in the same conference three or four times.

The CFL also entered the season with two new head coaches: controversial Frank Kush, formerly of Arizona State, taking over from John Payne in Hamilton and Joe Faragalli, previously an assistant in Edmonton, replacing Ron Lancaster at Saskatchewan.

With all the revamping taking place in the East, the pendulum of the CFL could finally be swinging back from West to East; that is, if you believe in statistics.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

(13-3-0) Okay, so what do the Eskimos do for an encore in 1981 after winning their third straight Grey Cup last November?

"Well, I was asked that question after our first Grey Cup win, again after our second one, and now I guess I'm going to hear it once more," said head coach Hugh Campbell. "However, we don't set our goals in terms of Grey Cups, but rather in terms of improving what we did last year. We simply try to improve all over and to play a little better."

Campbell feels that that approach is the best way to motivate a team that has been the dominant force in the CFL for the past decade, and with 43 veterans returning to training camp strong competition for jobs will eliminate any problems of complacency.

Two spots on the 34-man roster opened up through the retirement of center Bob Howes and the departure of defensive back Gregg Butler, who was sold to the Montreal Alouettes. Canadian Ted Milian will step into Howes' spot, but the battle to replace Butler will be a lot more complicated. Mike McLeod (Montana State), who got into the Grey Cup game as a replacement for injured Canadian Pete Lavorato, will get the first shot at the job. But he'll get strong competition from Howard Fields (Baylor), Henry Williams (San Diego State), and Jack Hayes (Fresno State).

Larry Highbaugh (Indiana) returns for his 10th year along with six-year veteran Joe Hollimon (Arkansas State) at the corners, while Ed Jones (Rutgers) is back as the other safety and Lavorato is the rover.

Elsewhere on the defense, there is unlikely to be any change. David Boone (Eastern Michigan) and Ron Estay (Louisiana State) are the ends and Canadian Dave Fennell and York Hentschel the tackles. Dan Kepley (East Carolina) is still the best middle linebacker in the CFL, Tom Cousineau of Montreal notwithstanding. And he's flanked by outstanding Canadian outside linebackers in Dale Potter and Tom Towns. The Eskimos have also added veteran Canadian Bill Manchuk from Saskatchewan.

Offensively, the squabble for jobs will occur at the wide receiver positions. Injuries to Waddell Smith (Kansas) and Brian Kelly (Washington State) caused the Eskimos to bring in several new players late last season. They included Randy Simmrin (Southern Cal), Ernest Pough (Texas Southern), and former Washington Redskin Danny Buggs (West Virginia). They'll battle it out for two jobs.

Tom Scott (Washington) occupies one slotback spot after another brilliant season that saw him grab 73 passes for 1,245 yards, the most in the league. The other slotback will probably be Canadian Brian Fryer, also a one-time Washington Redskin, with Stu Lang, John Konihowski, and Marco Cyncar, who returned to Edmonton after a year with Hamilton, fighting it out for the backup jobs.

Warren Moon is now, without question, the team's No. 1 quarterback. The 38-year-old Tom Wilkinson has decided to try one more year, at least, but he'll be the backup. Brian Broomell (Temple), who spent his entire rookie season on the injury list, will likely go onto the new, four-man taxi squad. The fourth quarterback is Brian Potter (Northern Arizona), who played only three games last fall because of knee problems. The Eskimos feel he's got potential and will let him spend the year on the injury list while he absorbs their system.

It's this kind of planning that has made the Eskimos perennial champions.

Mike Wilson (Dayton), who also missed the Grey Cup game with a knee injury, returns to anchor the offensive line. Neil Lumsden, acquired from Hamilton at the beginning of last season, is the fullback. At one running back is long-time fixture Jim Germany (New Mexico). The kicking game remains unchanged as well with Dave Cutler, the league's all-time scoring leader, handling the place-kicking and Hank Illesic the punting.

RB Jimmy Edwards joins QB Dieter Brock (#5) at Winnipeg; DB Larry Highbaugh (right), MLB Dan Kepley (#42), and QB Warren Moon (#1) of Edmonton, 1980 Grey Cup winner

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

(10-6-0) There were a lot of people voicing the opinion that the Blue Bombers had an excellent chance this season of replacing the Edmonton Eskimos as Western Conference champions. After the Bombers' second-half performance last year, that wasn't a completely ludicrous thought, either. Spurring on that idea further was the signing of quarterback Dieter Brock to a new contract just two weeks before camp.

But the Bombers and their hopeful followers received a jolt when training camp opened and four veteran players did not answer the roll call. Missing were offensive tackle Butch Norman, offensive guard Larry Butler, running back William Miller, last season's CFL rookie-of-the-year, and linebacker Bob Toogood.

"We'll just have to carry on," said head coach Ray Jauch, stoically. He didn't sound all that convincing.

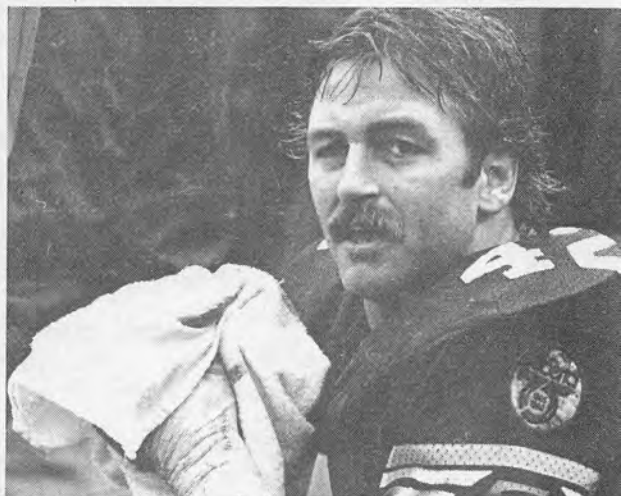
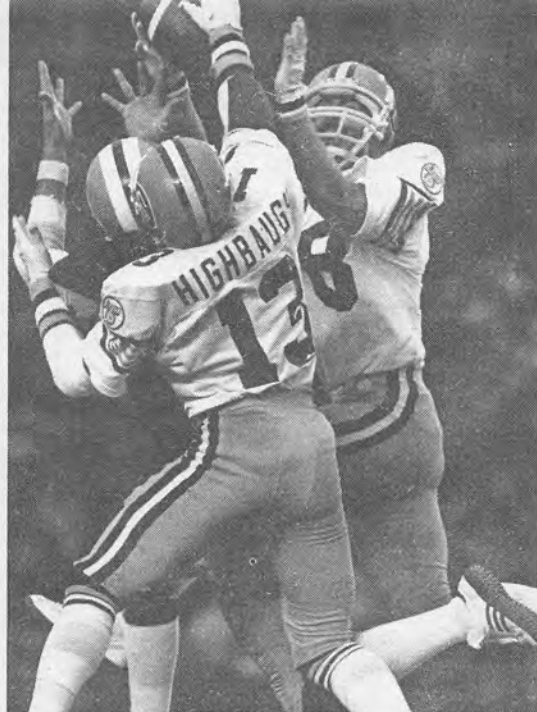
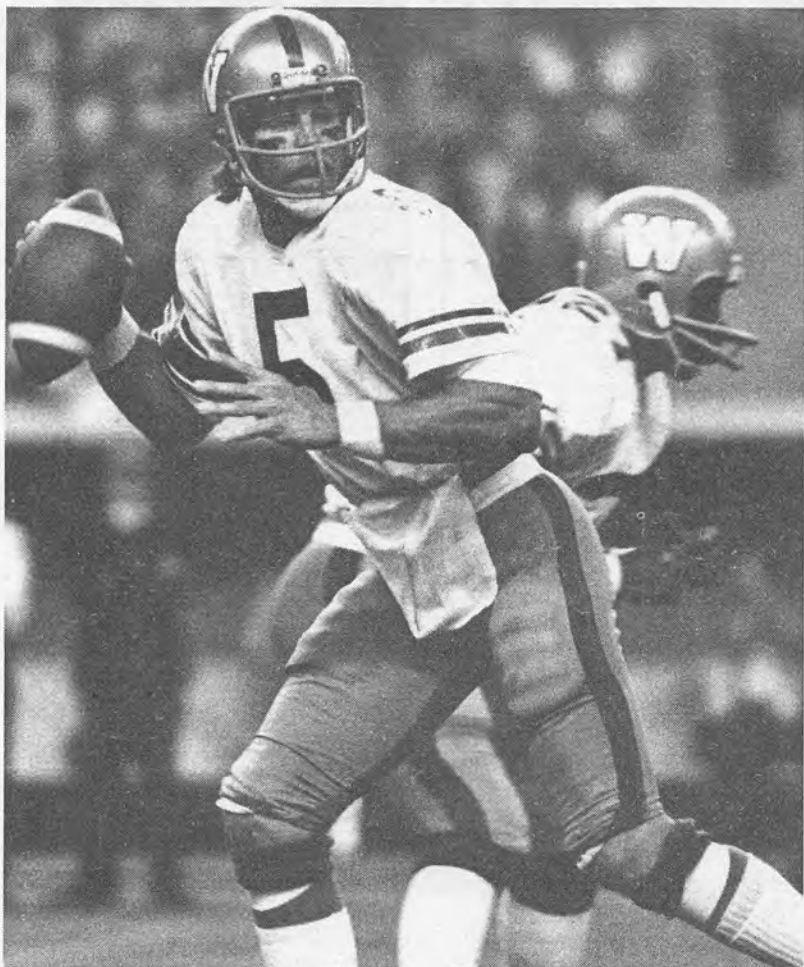
His only consolation was that he had Brock (Jacksonville State) back in the fold with a five-year, \$1.1 million contract. Originally, Brock, who earned \$90,000 last season while setting several records and winning the Schenley Award as the CFL's outstanding player, had demanded \$300,000 per season. When the Bombers declared that they could not meet that figure, Brock had asked to be traded. At best, he would return only to play out his option.

But when the league's richer clubs—Montreal, Toronto, and Hamilton—all acquired experienced quarterbacks, Brock tempered his demands and the Bombers raised their offer to mutual satisfaction.

"I stated at the end of last year that all of Dieter's football was ahead of him and he will make this team one of the best in the country," said Jauch. "I haven't changed my opinion."

The retirement of Norman and Butler left one of the CFL's most solid offensive lines in shambles. Returning were center John Bonk, guard Nick Bastaja, and tackle Bobby Thompson (Kansas State). Jauch was attempting to move either Marv Allemang or Willie Thomas





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(both Canadians) into Butler's spot, while newcomers Steve Oliver (Kansas) and Frankie Smith (Alabama A&M), both imports, were competing for the tackle job vacated by Norman.

Miller, who earned \$25,000 last year while rushing for 1,052 yards, had threatened to stay home if he did not receive a substantial raise. He carried out that threat when camp opened.

Fortunately for the Bombers they had obtained the rights to former CFL Schenley Award winner Jimmy Edwards (Northeast Louisiana), and Edwards was showing some of his old form during the early days of camp. A one-time Hamilton Tiger-Cat, Edwards fell out of favor in Hamilton two years after rushing for 1,581 yards and was unexpectedly dropped by the Ticats. He spent the 1979 season with the Minnesota Vikings, but was released last year.

Battling Edwards for the job of replacing Miller were Dennis Mosley (Iowa) and Derrick Peels (Santa Monica).

The Bombers' receiving brigade was outstanding at the end of the season after Eugene Goodlow (Kansas State) joined them for their last five games. He gives the Bombers a second speedster to go with Mike Holmes (Texas Southern), who led the league with 79 catches last year. Canadians Joe Poplawski (56 catches) and Rick House (40) supply sure-handed inside targets for Brock.

The defensive line will undergo some renovations. Ecomet Burley (Texas Tech) moves back to tackle after a not-so-successful season at end. Canadian Ron Cherkas was slated to move from tackle to end. John Helton (Arizona State), a perennial all-star, and Anthony Norman (Iowa State), who played ten games last year, will be the tackle and end, respectively, on the other side of the line.

Newcomers looking for jobs will be Jeff Henry (Louisville), who missed the entire 1980 season after suffering a knee injury in camp; Mike Calhoun (Notre Dame), who has NFL experience with Dallas, Chicago, Tampa Bay, and San Francisco; and Ken Times (Southern), a fifth-round draft pick of the 49ers last year.



STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

The Bombers' linebacking is solid with James Reed (California) in the middle flanked by Canadians Leo Ezerins and Vern Pahl, who will replace Toogood.

The defensive secondary will receive an adjustment with Vince Phason (Arizona) moving inside to join Reggie Pierson (Cal-Northridge) as the halfbacks. Charley Williams (Jackson State) was solid at one corner, but four newcomers including Al Latimer (Clemson), who beat out Williams with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1979, will compete for the other corner. Former Argo Paul Bennett, who played a halfback spot last year, will move to rover where he'll battle another Canadian, Gary Rosolowich (Boise State), for the starting job.

Trevor Kennard's 31 field goals last year tied him with British Columbia's Lui Passaglia for the most three-pointers in the West. Jauch, however, is looking for Bob Cameron to improve on his 42-yard punting average.

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

(9-7-0) After closing to within two points of the Edmonton Eskimos in the 1979 standings, the Stampeders slipped considerably last year when they lost three more games than they had the previous year. That dropped them into third place, eight points off the pace. The puzzling fact in the Stampeders' decline was that they beat the powerful Eskimos in two out of three meetings during the season.

"We got closer to Edmonton, but we stubbed our toes on the others," said general manager Jack Gotta. "I sometimes think we were too preoccupied with trying to beat Edmonton."

To return to their 1979 pace, Stampeders head coach Ardel Weigandt will have to get more consistent quarterbacking from Ken Johnson and Bruce Threadgill. The pair completed 52.9 percent of their throws last season, third worst in the league. The Stampeders attempted to acquire Condredge Holloway from Ottawa in the offseason but lost out.

The Stampeders' strong points, both offensively and defensively, are the lines. The offensive line, which gave up only 13 quarterback sacks, was voted the best unit in the league in a players' association poll. It should be even better this year. The Stamps had four protected choices in this year's draft as a result of trades and two of them, Randy Besler (Northeast Missouri) and Shawn Beaton (Boise State), are offensive linemen. But they won't have an easy time trying to knock Bob Krebs, Lloyd Fairbanks, who attended Brigham Young, Dave Kirzinger, Bob Lubig, or Mark Moors out of a job.

The Stampeders' all-import defensive front four, which led the CFL with 58 quarterback sacks, could also be strengthened if the club's top protected choice, defensive end Scott MacArthur from the University of Calgary, can win a starting job. That would also free an import spot elsewhere on the team. Veteran end Reggie Lewis (San Diego State) and tackle Ed McAleney (Massachusetts) are fixtures, leaving Ken Dombroski (Cameron) and Ron Paggett (Louisiana Tech) to battle for the other tackle.

Calgary's biggest area of concern is middle linebacker, where Ollie Baaken was never adequately replaced.

"We're still looking for a premier middle linebacker, someone of the Dan Kepley

Running back James Sykes (left) and defensive end Reggie Lewis (top right) of Calgary Stampeders

(Edmonton's great middle linebacker) type," said Gotta. He may have to wait until the NFL cuts to find the player he's looking for. Otherwise, Weigandt might find himself going with three Canadian linebackers.

The secondary appears strong with Ray Odums (Alabama) and Terry Irvin (Jackson State) at the corners, Al Burleson (Washington) and Lepolean Ingram (Sacramento State) at the safeties, and former Montreal Alouette Jim Burrows (Nebraska) at rover. Canadians Merv Walker and Darrell Moir could start if Weigandt needs import help elsewhere.

James Sykes returned to form last year, after slipping a little the previous season, and led the league in rushing with 1,263 yards. His backfield partner, veteran Willie Burden, who holds the league rushing record of 1,896 yards (set in 1975), could get a battle for his job from Mike Jones (North Texas State) and Bret Davis (Nevada-Las Vegas).

"I predict that at least two of them will end up playing somewhere in the league if they don't make it with us," said Gotta.

Veteran Canadian Tom Forzani and import Willie Armstead (Utah) will occupy two of the four receiving spots, with Ron Robinson (Utah State), who joined the team for the final four games of last season, likely grabbing the other. Weigandt, however, will be looking for another receiver, preferably one who can double as a



kick returner, to battle Kelvin Kirk (Dayton). Gotta signed Cecil Stockdale (Colorado State) and Buddy Fuller (Panhandle A&M), but it remains to be seen whether they can do the job.

Mike McTague, who saw plenty of action as a receiver, and J.T. Hay did outstanding jobs as punter and place-kicker, respectively, and so Calgary has no worries there.

Overall, the Stampeders are a young club, perhaps the youngest in the league. A year's maturity might help them overcome their erratic behavior that saw them beat the Eskimos twice but lose to Saskatchewan, Ottawa, and British Columbia, games they should have won.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

(8-7-1) The Lions will be moving into a new \$115 million domed home, now under construction in downtown Vancouver, in 1983. That gives the team's management and coaching staff two full years to get their act together and come up with a team that will be able to attract customers to their luxurious new stadium.

As the Montreal Alouettes, who moved into the Olympic Stadium after the 1976 Summer Games concluded, found out fans will be drawn to a new stadium out of pure curiosity for a year or two. But once the novelty wears off, ticket sales come back to the product on the field.

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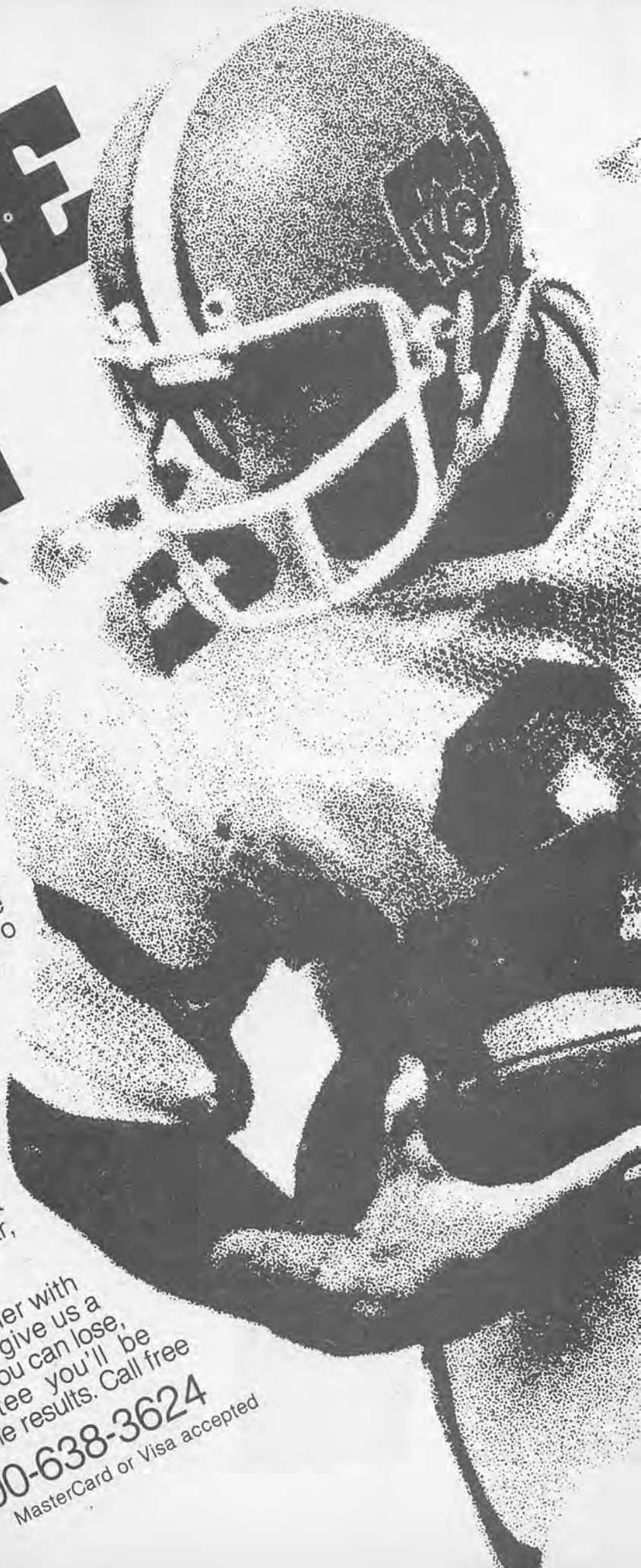
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been a stale commodity on the Western Conference shelf. They haven't had a losing season since Vic Rapp took over as head coach in 1977. At the same time, they haven't been a serious contender for the conference title since Rapp's first season, when they tied Edmonton for first place in the regular schedule.

Since 1978, injuries have proven to be a major factor in the Lions' demise. That year, eight starters were lost for the season as the Leos slid from contenders to pretenders. Two years ago, veteran quarterback Jerry Tagge suffered a knee injury that ended his career. The Lions limped into the playoffs but were quickly put out of their misery. Last season, Joe Paopao (Long Beach State), who was Tagge's successor, was knocked out of the lineup on two separate occasions and Vancouver fans didn't have to buy playoff tickets again.

With Paopao's health (shoulder) a question mark going into training camp, it could be another up and down season for the Vancouver faithful. Roy DeWalt (Texas-Arlington) the backup last season, Mike Nott (Santa Clara), back for his third training camp, and NFL veteran Steve Pisarkiewicz, obtained just a few days before the beginning of camp, will attempt to win the No. 1 job if Paopao's shoulder acts up.

With a healthy, experienced quarterback the B.C. offense would be as good as any in the league. In John Henry White (Louisiana Tech) and Larry Key (Florida State), the Lions have an outstanding one-two rushing punch. Leo Sloan (Linfield), who was injured early last year—one of 25 players to miss at least one game—could challenge for a starting job.

Tight end Harry Holt (Arizona), who sometimes marches to his own drummer, "retired" in a bid to extract a large pay slip from the Lions. So did Tyrone Gray (Washington State), who was converted from a defensive back to a receiver last season. Unless Gray changes his mind, the wide receiver spot will be a battle between rookie Greg Woodard (California) and veteran Ricky Ellis (Long Beach). Canadian Al Charuk will be the other wide receiver with veteran slotback Terry Bailey getting competition from sophomore pro Steven Kearns.

"What we have to do is bolster our import side," said general manager Bob Ackles. He is hoping that Rapp will be able to slip an extra Canadian into the offensive line, leaving just one of the tackle positions for an American—

either Jim Lohman (Texas-El Paso) or Donnie Hickman (Utah State). Rookie Canadian Vic Klossen (Simon Fraser) must show he can start if Rapp is to use home-brews at four of the five offensive line positions.

The Lions want to improve the import content along the defensive line as well as in the secondary. Ever since Rapp arrived in Vancouver he's been attempting to improve the Lions' pass rush, but without too much success. Import Richard Murray (Oklahoma) and Canadian Rick Goltz should return as the ends. Nick Hebler and Doug Seymour will look after one tackle spot, but the other tackle position could be up for grabs among Franklin King (Kansas), who played the last nine games of 1980, and newcomers Charlie Green (Weber State) and Ron Haynes (Stephen F. Austin). The Lions inked linemen Tyrone Keys (Mississippi State), a fifth-round pick of the New York Jets, and Mack Moore (Texas A&M), a sixth-round choice of the Miami Dolphins.

Middle linebacker Sam Britts has been injured much of the past two seasons and unless he's completely healthy his age (31) could catch up to him. The Lions have brought in insurance in Tyrone Crews (Kansas State) and Walter Odom (North Carolina Central).

Imports will occupy four of the five places in the secondary, and there could be an upheaval here. Leon Bright (Florida State) played out his option and signed with the Giants in the NFL. Kerry Parker and Ken Hinton (Arizona) went into camp as the incumbent corners, but they'll be pushed by Mike Guess (Ohio State), Mike Burns (USC), Eric Hurt (San Jose), and Ty Justin (Cal-Fullerton). Devon Ford and Joe Fourqurean will be the safeties. Lui Passaglia will handle the punting and place-kicking.

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

(2-14-0) Hard times have hit the prairies once again. Only this time the depression is on the scoreboard at Taylor Field in Regina, home of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The Roughriders (not to be confused with the Ottawa Rough Riders), who were the predecessors to the Edmonton Eskimos as the dominant team in the Western Conference (going to the Grey Cup game five times between 1966 and 1976), have won just eight games while losing 29 and tying one in the last three years.

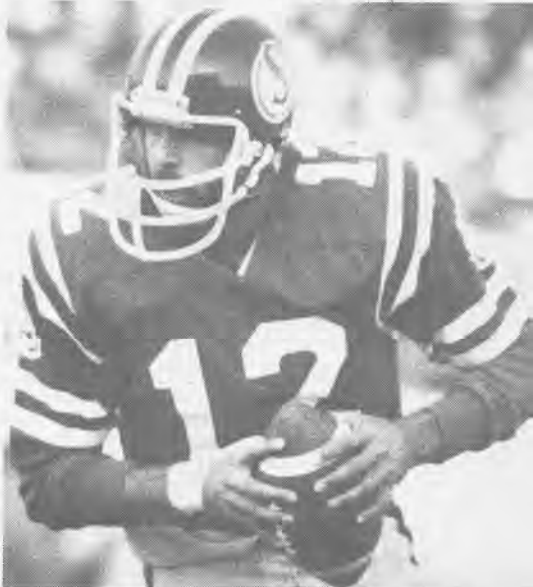
The job of changing that trend has fallen to genial Joe Faragalli, a former assistant coach with the Eskimos. Faragalli took over from Ron Lancaster, the legendary quarterback of the Riders for 16 years, who resigned after two seasons and a couple of hours as head coach. The couple of hours occurred in January when he signed a new contract and then phoned general manager Jim Spavital to tell him he'd changed his mind. Faragalli, who suffered a heart attack two years ago, doesn't think coaching the sad-sack Roughies will burden his ticker. In fact, he's not asking the good country folk of Saskatchewan to bear with him for three or four years while he replants the roots of a new football team.

"I don't want to use a rebuilding program as a crutch," he said. "I like to think we can win our share of games and be competitive. In Lester

Brown we have a solid running back, the offensive line is pretty good, and we have two seasoned quarterbacks in John Hufnagel and Joe Barnes," he said.

"Defense, however, is where we'll face the pressure to improve. If you want to win consistently, you have to do it [there]. That's where our offseason work and searching for talent has been directed." Faragalli said he'll use as many imports as necessary on defense.

A few days before the opening of camp, the Riders signed free agent Canadian defensive end Lyall Woznesensky, who had played out his option with Hamilton. As compensation they sent first protected choice Eugene Larocque (Utah State) and linebacker Carm Carteri to Hamilton. Woznesensky joins a defensive line where returnees Mike Samples (Drake), Mike Blanton (Georgia Tech), and home-brew Doug McIver will get competition from Texas Tech star Jamie Giles, Tom Schillinger, a 1979 grad of Oregon State, and Kevin Cole (Tulane).



RB Lester Brown (top left), QB John Hufnagel (#12), and rover Ken McEachern (right) of Saskatchewan

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\$ \$ FOOTBALL YOUR GAME? \$ \$

Faragalli will field an all-new linebacking corps. Often-injured middle man Cleveland Vann and veteran Roger Goree retired. Steve Mazurak was traded to Edmonton. Trying to replace the imports among that trio will be the likes of Frank Robinson (Tulane), Ricky Washington (Arizona State), and Rick Donaldson (Penn State). Holdover Tom Schulz, obtained late last year from Winnipeg, Campbell Hackney, and rookie Dave Pearson will battle for the lone home-brew spot.

Veteran cornerback Steve Dennis (Grambling) and all-Canadian rover Ken McEachern (Weber State), who signed a lucrative new contract after picking off ten interceptions last year, are set. However, corner Billy McBride and safeties Zack Jones and Bobby Hosea faced a host of newcomers at camp. Faragalli brought in B.C. reject Larry Riley (Salem College), along with Nate Jones (Tulane) and Andre Jones (Nevada-Las Vegas).

Offensively, the Riders were stronger going into camp than they have been at any time since the retirement of Lancaster after the 1978 season. Barnes (Texas Tech), obtained from Montreal midway through last season, is an excellent runner. Hufnagel (Penn State), who came over from Calgary prior to last season, if more of a dropback thrower, but can also scramble if necessary. Faragalli insists he's not looking for a scrambling quarterback, but for one mobile enough "so that we can move the pocket around. We'll let Brown do the running."

Brown (Clemson) gained 590 yards in the last seven games of the season for a solid 5.2-yard average. He'll get competition, however, from Jerry Aldridge (Angelo State), a fifth-round pick of the 49ers last year.

Joey Walters, who returned to the Riders after an unsuccessful fling in the NFL, heads the import receivers. Robert Woods (Grambling), who gained 500 yards in eight games for Winnipeg, Otha Hill (Central State), Randy Williams (Kentucky State), and Larry Doty (Linfield) fight it out for the other import job. Canadians Dwight Edwards, Greg Fieger, Gerry Felner, and Bruce Gair fill the home-brew spots.

Bob Macoritti, whose work drew criticism from Lancaster last year, will concentrate solely on place-kicking this season. Former Argo, Ticat, and L.A. Ram Ken Clark will handle just the punting, unless he shows he can also handle the placements.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

(8-7-1) The Tiger-Cats were picked to finish last in the East last season by most of the so-called experts. So what did they do? They finished first, albeit by a single point over the .500 mark, and went on to play in the Grey Cup game where they were humbled, 48-10, by the mighty Edmonton Eskimos.

And what was head coach John Payne's reward? You guessed it. He was shown the door. Or, more accurately, he voluntarily went through the exit before he was pushed.

Replacing Payne is controversial Frank Kush, the former Arizona State head coach, who this spring was found not guilty of using brutal coaching tactics, an accusation brought against him by former ASU punter Kevin Rutledge in a \$2.2 million civil law suit. Kush, who called the jury's decision a victory for sports in America, said the only negative aspect of the trial was that he was not able to dedicate

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

himself to the task of getting to know the Ticat personnel and preparing for his first season in the CFL.

"I've only had about four weeks or so to concentrate and do the necessary things to prepare for training camp," he said.

Kush's transition to the Canadian game was made easier by the return of quarterback Tom Clements, after an unsuccessful fling in the NFL with Kansas City, and by the acquisition of former Schenley Award-winning running back David Green and wide receiver Keith Baker from Montreal. The Ticats got Green and Baker for "nothing" because of general manager Ralph Gazio's shrewd move in putting the name of former Los Angeles Rams' quarterback Vince Ferragamo on the Hamilton negotiation list last fall. Hamilton was not interested in meeting Ferragamo's financial demands, but new Montreal owner Nelson Skalbania was more than willing to open his wallet. Thus the Ticats eventually sent Ferragamo's rights to the Alouettes for Baker and Green.

Clements, who started his career in Ottawa after starring at Notre Dame, played part of the 1979 season with the Ticats as he played out his option in preparation for a shot at the NFL. But last year, with Kansas City, his NFL dream turned into a nightmare as he saw action in part of the opening game of the season and then spent the rest of the year on the bench. Until Clements's return, the Ticats were prepared to go with Dave Marler (Mississippi State), a third-year pivot they had signed to a new long-term contract. Now Marler returns to a backup role.

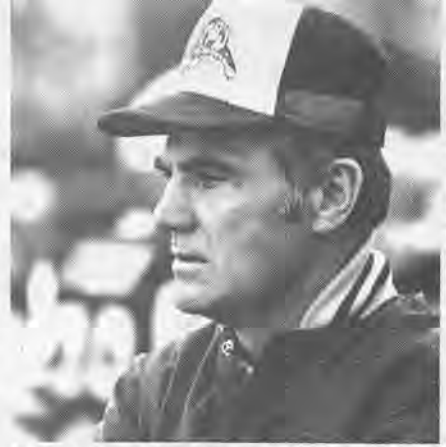
Baker (Texas Southern) gives Kush a second speedy deep threat to go along with John Holland (Tennessee State). Also competing at wide receiver are former Buffalo Bill Mike Kirtman (San Jose State), Charlie Green (Kansas State), and Jim Fitzpatrick (Illinois State). Canadians Leif Pettersen and Gord Paterson will be the inside receivers. Pettersen was the East's leading receiver two years ago with Clements looking to him in the clutch.

The backfield is overloaded with talent. Green, who sent an Eastern Conference rushing record with 1,678 yards in 1979, had an off season last year in Montreal after failing to land a million-dollar contract, but still managed to pick up 873 yards. If he regains his form, he can be the most devastating runner in the league. He'll also make it difficult for Obie Graves (Fullerton State), who gained 658 yards in half a season, to retain his job. Speedster Rufus Crawford (Virginia State), who was injured for much of the year but still managed 470 yards, should be the other ball-carrier. He'll get competition from Jim Culbreath (Oklahoma) and Frank Collins (Utah).

With Ed George gone, Ed Fulton (Maryland) moves to tackle from guard and will battle with Bill Prohoska (Temple) and Randy Young (Iowa State). Veteran Willie Martin should retain the other tackle spot and Canadians will handle the center and two guards.

The major lineup alteration facing Kush is moving all-star linebacker Ben Zambiasi (Georgia) from the outside to the middle. The Ticats released 33-year-old Carl Crennel, once the premier middle linebacker in the East with Montreal, to prepare for the switch. Moving Zambiasi inside allows Kush to go with two Canadian outside linebackers and the extra import (a wide receiver) on offense.

The secondary was the toughest in the East last year with former Cincinnati Bengal Jerry



Frank Kush, Hamilton's new coach

(the Beast) Anderson leading the way from a halfback position. Leroy Paul (Texas Southern) and six-year veteran David Shaw (Prairie View) return as the corners and Harold Woods (West Virginia) at the other halfback. Canadians Randy Graham, Emil Nielsen, and Preston Young, acquired from Toronto, will fight it out for the rover job.

The kicking situation is well in hand (or should that be foot?) with Bernie Ruoff looking after both the punting and placements. He tied with Toronto's Zenon Andrusyshyn for the Eastern scoring title, getting 136 points on 32 field goals (most in the league) 26 converts, and 14 singles.

MONTREAL ALOUETTES

(8-8) Two years ago the Alouettes set the National Football League and, particularly, the Buffalo Bills on their heels when they lured the college draft's No. 1 selection, Ohio State linebacker Tom Cousineau, north to Canada.

This spring, with flamboyant and rich new owner Nelson Skalbania seemingly bent on putting together the best team money can buy outside the NFL, the Alouettes are again enticing U.S. stars northward.

They started with dissident Los Angeles Rams' quarterback Vince Ferragamo and then obtained a pair of swift, sure-handed NFL receivers in James Scott of the Chicago Bears and Billy (White Shoes) Johnson of the Houston Oilers. They even attempted to lure All-America college running back Herschel Walker out of the University of Georgia after just one year to take Ferragamo's handoffs.

And when Walker declined, the Als didn't stop. As training camp opened they were still negotiating with George Rogers, the Heisman Trophy winner and the No. 1 pick in this year's draft by New Orleans. Rogers later signed with the Saints, but the Als landed Oklahoma running back David Overstreet, the Miami Dolphins' No. 1 draft choice.

The Als didn't just concentrate on U.S. talent, either. They purchased defensive back Gregg Butler, a CFL all-star, from Edmonton and broke a "gentleman's" agreement by signing free agent fullback Mike Murphy from Ottawa. The CFL general managers readily admit that there is an agreement among them that one team will not sign a player who has become a free agent until compensation has been first worked out. Murphy, however, tore his Achilles tendon in camp and could be gone for the year.

With all this wealth of talent they are accumulating, there is no doubt that all eyes will be on the Als. Will they, in fact, run away and hide from the rest of the league or is there enough talent overall to allow Ferragamo, Scott, and Johnson to perform their aerial attack?

The offensive line is undoubtedly the Als' big-

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gest concern. In an effort to beef up the blocking that even Ferragamo will need to get away his passes, the Als started by moving backup guard Mike Hameluck to center. At the same time they dealt veteran center Doug Smith to Toronto for guard Bill Norton (Weber State) and picked up much traveled Ray Honey (Drake) to battle Roland Mangold for the other guard.

The tackles will be Americans, with Eastern all-star Doug Payton (Colorado) on the right side and Larry Pfohl (Miami) on the left. If Honey starts at guard over Mangold, the five interior linemen will average 250 pounds. Whether they're good enough to keep the heat off Ferragamo is something else.

While they were out wooing Walker, the Als seemed to forget they had a pretty good Walker in their own back yard in Alvin "Skip" Walker, who rushed for 692 yards last year on only 114 carries and caught 34 passes for 552 yards. And this year, with Murphy to do the heavy sledging inside, now that David Green is gone, Walker, Skip, that is, can continue to do his thing to the outside and downfield.

Defensively, the only change should be the insertion of Butler at safety. Dave Dumars (Northeast Louisiana) and Woodrow Wilson (North Carolina State) are the incumbent cornerbacks and they'll be pushed by Carl Brazley (Western Kentucky), who played in three games last year, and newcomer Ben Hyland (Delaware). Randy Rhino (Georgia Tech) returns as the rover, while the other safety spot will be contested by a host of Canadians.

Cousineau, who reported two weeks late to camp and has been hinting he'd like to move on to the NFL, will play out his option at middle linebacker, flanked by William Hampton (Arkansas) and Wally Buono, a Canadian who attended Idaho State.

The defensive line remains intact with veterans Junior Ah You (Arizona State) at right end and Canadian Glen Weir at left tackle, back for their 10th and 13th seasons, respectively. Gabriel Gregoire and Doug Scott are the other end and tackle, while James Zachery (Texas A&M), who came in midway through last season, attempts to land a starting job.

The Als will have the best backup quarterback in the country with Gerry Dattilio, last year's starter and the CFL's outstanding Canadian award winner, being relegated to the bench with the acquisition of Ferragamo.

While the Als have gone for big-name talent, there's one thought that has to be on the minds of CFL observers: the Edmonton Eskimos have never gone after the superstars, but have won three straight Grey Cups and have been in the championship game seven times in the past nine years.

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

(6-10-0) Head coach Willie Wood rowed three strokes forward but, perhaps, one backward before launching the Argonauts into the 1981 season. The former all-pro defensive back with the Green Bay Packers went shopping this winter for a top-flight quarterback, a speedy running back, and several defensive backs.

He got the quarterback in Condredge Holloway, the running back in Cedric Minter, and the defensive backs in Marcellus Greene, Drew Hardville, James Wilson, and Larry Harmon. He may have paid a heavy price, however, when he was forced to give up Canadian offensive tackle Kevin Powell (Utah State) to obtain Holloway.

The Argonauts had been negotiating with

Miami Dolphins' veteran backup pivot Don Strock, who had become a free agent on Feb. 1, at the same time that they were attempting to swing a deal with the Ottawa Rough Riders for Holloway. While Holloway was the individual they wanted, Wood at first refused to meet the Riders' demands for Powell. But as the talks with Strock, who demanded certain guarantees, began to stagnate and it appeared Ottawa might peddle Holloway to the Calgary Stampeders, Wood finally relented and agreed to part with Powell.

"We were afraid we'd find ourselves in a situation where we wouldn't get either one of them," he said.

Holloway's arrival certainly gives the Argos the quality quarterback they've lacked since the departure of Joe Theismann to the Washington Redskins following the 1973 season. In six seasons with Ottawa, Holloway had established himself as one of the best pivots in the CFL and was the East's all-star quarterback in 1978.

If there's a concern about the former University of Tennessee star, it's over his health. In the past two years he's had operations on both knees and suffered serious rib injuries that forced him to wear a flak jacket during games. But Holloway denies he's injury prone and points to an unstable Rider offensive line and the fact that he was being asked to play from a dropback position—rather than rolling out—for his woes.

With the arrival of Holloway, the Argos immediately dropped former NFLer Tony Adams, leaving Mark Jackson (Baylor) and Jimmy Streeter, whom Holloway recruited for Tennessee, competing for the relief job. The Argos released another veteran, former NFL superstar Terry Metcalf, with the arrival of the heir apparent Minter. The Boise State star was the leading rusher in the history of the Big Sky and Wood is confident he'll supply the Argos with the type of running Toronto fans haven't seen since the retirement of Bill Symons in 1974.

The cynics, though, were wondering aloud if Holloway would get any more protection than he got in Ottawa or if Minter would get any more running room than Metcalf got from the Argos offensive line. Only one lineman from last year—John Malinosky (Michigan State)—is expected to be a starter and he's moving from tackle to guard.

The Argos traded their starting left guard of last season, Bill Norton, to Montreal for veteran center Doug Smith. That should help them. But the unexpected departure of import Mike Obrovac (Bowling Green) to the Cincinnati Bengals and the trading of Powell left Wood with the job of finding two new tackles. Wood went to camp prepared to go with two import tackles and his candidates were Bob Harris (Bowling Green), who played two games with Hamilton in 1980; George Schechterly, who blocked for George Rogers at South Carolina; and rookie Harold Norfleet (Prairie View A&M). He was hoping that a rookie Canadian might be able to step into a starting job, thus relieving the need to use Americans at both tackles.

Defensively, Bruce Clark (Penn State), the Green Bay Packers' first-round pick in 1980 who signed instead with the Argos, returns for one more season despite suggestions that the Boatmen would cut him loose this year. He's the left tackle.

Player-coach Jim Corrigan, entering his 12th season, was hinting at retirement after concentrating on his coaching duties during camp.

QB Condredge Holloway joins DT Bruce Clark with Toronto Argonauts.

leaving the left end job for Brent Racette. Gord Judges, a 13-year veteran who came to the Argos from Montreal midway through last season, appeared to have ousted Leon Lyszkiewicz from the right tackle slot. Import Norman Goodman, who arrived at camp ten pounds underweight, will likely be replaced at right end by rookie Ron Coleman (Florida).

Wood won't tamper at all with the linebacking crew, where Dan Bass (Michigan State) blossomed nicely after a slow start. Neither will he alter the receiver corps with the exception of one slotback position, where Toronto native Jan Carinci returns after four years at Maryland.

Zenon Andrusyshyn returned to the Argos last year after a year in the NFL with Kansas City and another half-season with Hamilton and did an outstanding job as kicker and punter. He signed a long-term contract.

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

(7-9-0) "Right now," said Rough Rider head coach George Brancato, as he prepared to depart for the team's training camp facilities at Trent University, "we're at the bottom of the totem pole."

And that, precisely, is where most Eastern Conference observers were listing the Riders after a losing season in 1980 followed by a winter of discontent that saw quarterback Condredge Holloway traded to Toronto, fullback Mike Murphy jump to the Alouettes after becoming a free agent, and veteran defensive tackle Mike Raines retire as the result of a contract hassle.

Losing Holloway, who asked to be traded, was undoubtedly the most punishing blow. Not



only did they lose an excellent quarterback and team leader, but the Riders were left without an experienced pivot. Jordan Case (North Texas State), who was released at the end of last year's preseason schedule and later brought back when Holloway was injured, has only eight pro games under his belt. Ron Calcagni (Arkansas) has been a pro for two years (Montreal in 1979), but has yet to show he can handle a starting assignment. The third pivot is rookie Kevin Starkey of Long Beach State, who is expected to give Case and Calcagni a good run for the starting job. Brancato signed Oklahoma quarterback J.C. Watts, drafted in the eighth round by the New York Jets as a defensive back, who accepted Ottawa's offer after he was promised a chance at quarterback, then reconsidered, saying he would quit football.

The offensive line will undergo some adjustments, although Brancato has some experienced people to work with. Val Belcher (Houston) and Pat Staub (Temple), who will be moving in from tackle to guard, will flank centers Bob Titley and Doug McGee. Powell will be the left tackle while Mike Mason (Southern Methodist) and Bob Brewer (Temple) are new right tackle prospects.

Steve Coury (Oregon State) is the lone import wide receiver and he could lose out to the numbers game if Brancato is forced to go with an all-Canadian set of receivers in order to get two imports into the backfield.

Richard Crump (Northeast Oklahoma) was the East's leading rusher in 1980 with 1,084 yards. He'll be tough to dislodge, but Mark Bright (Temple) and Terald Clark (Houston) were signed to compete for the spot.

The Riders' secondary was shabby last year after losing all-star cornerback Mike Nelms to the Washington Redskins and Larry Brune to the Minnesota Vikings and because of the diminished play of often-injured Ken Downing. Only Canadian rover Mark Philp and import cornerback Jon Sutton (New Mexico) from last year's secondary went to camp listed as starters. Rookies got the No. 1 call at the other cornerback spot and the two safety positions. Bill Schoepflin (Brigham Young) and Sharay Fields (New Mexico) will tussle for the job at left cornerback. Marcus Quinn (Louisiana State) and Mike Davis (Colorado) are the leading candidates to be the safeties.

Outside linebackers Ron Foxx (Alabama A & M) and Rick Sowiet (Richmond) are set, but middle linebacker Bill Banks (Penn State) could get an argument from newcomer Marlon "Bubba" Brown (Clemson).

Brancato must find a replacement for Raines to go along with Jimmy Walker (Arkansas) or Curtis Anderson (Central State, Ohio), Canadian Jim Piaskoski (Eastern Michigan) and Greg Marshall (Oregon State) in the front four. He appears to have solid players in Mike Peerman (Colorado) and Matt Burnett (Lamar).

The 36-year-old Jerry Organ returns to handle the place-kicking and the punting duties.

"Our secondary was the area we worked hardest at in our recruiting, and I think we were able to come up with some good people," said Brancato. "People like Fields and Schoepflin would have been drafted had they not signed with us first. We should be strong defensively. Offensively, however, we'll be struggling because of our young quarterbacks. If we can hang in there defensively until our quarterbacks get their bearing, then we might be respectable by the end of the year."

Otherwise, it could be a long and lonely year for the Riders, whose fans aren't known for flocking to Lansdowne Park even when the team is winning.

NEW AMERICAN IMPORTS (AND CANADIANS WHO ATTENDED U.S. SCHOOLS)

B.C. LIONS

Mike Burns, CB, USC; Tyrone Crews, LB, Kansas State; Charles Green, DT, Weber State; Ron Haynes, DT, Stephen F. Austin State; Jim LeJay, RB, San Jose State; Eric Hunt, DB, San Jose State; Jim Himic, OG, West Virginia; Ty Justin, DB, Cal-Fullerton; Andre Keys, TE, Cal-Poly; Walter Odom, LB, North Carolina Central; Billy Reaves, TE, Morris Brown; Joe Robinson, OT, Ohio State; Curtis Sirmones, RB, North Alabama; George Thomas, WR, South Carolina; Cleveland Jackson, TE, Nevada-Las Vegas; Ron Haynes, DT, Stephen F. Austin; Anthony Paopao, RB, Cal-Lutheran

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

Joe Alvey, DE, Utah; Shawn Beaton, OG, Boise State; Randy Besler, OT, Northeast Missouri; Scott Burk, QB, Oklahoma State; Jerry Compton, WR, Central Oklahoma; Mike Chronister, WR, Brigham Young; Willie Curry, LB, Edinboro State; Brett Davis, RB, Nevada-Las Vegas; Randy Fournier, DT, Cincinnati; Buddy Fuller, WR, Panhandle A&M; Derrick Goddard, DB, Drake; Otis Grant, WR, Eastern Illinois; Norm Hopely, OG, Westchester State; Mike Jones, RB, North Texas State; Nick Kochaniuk, LB, Morehead State; Mark McNeal, DE, Idaho; John Prassas, LB, Brown; Artie Shankle, RB, McNeese State; Cecil Stockdale, WR, Colorado State; Mike Ulmer, DB, Doane.

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

Allen Anderson, DB, Northern Illinois; Howard Fields, CB, Baylor; Marcus Jennings, RB, San Diego State; Joe Odom, OT, Wichita State; Brian Potter, QB, Northern Arizona; Joe Richard, LB, Eastern Kentucky; Ken Walter, OT, Texas Tech; Jafus White, DB, Texas A & I; Hank Williams, CB, San Diego State; Charles Jackson, Washington (Kansas City-NFL).

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

Jerry Aldridge, RB, Angelo State; Maurice Burton, DB, Morgan State (Edmonton, CFL); Ricky Hardin, QB, Utah; Otha Hill, WR, Central State of Ohio; Andre Jones, DB, Nevada-Las Vegas; Nate Jones, DB, Tulane; Don Maxwell, DT-DE, Saginaw Valley State; Wayne McLean, RB, North Carolina State; Randy Moon, WR, Puget Sound; Eugene Larocque, DT, Utah; Larry Riley, DB, Salem College; Tom Schillinger, DT, Oregon State; Harry Walters, LB, Maryland (Edmonton-CFL); Ricky Washington, LB, Arizona State; Robert Woods, WR, Grambling (Winnipeg-CFL); Randy Williams, WR, Kentucky State; Jamie Giles, DT, Texas Tech; Judd Mayes, DB, Boise State; Clay Ruyle, DE, Stephen F. Austin; Marshall Hamilton, DB, Yale; Sam Willis, WR, Louisiana Tech; Emanuel Tolbert, WR, SMU.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

Don Burrell, CB, Mississippi State; Mike Calhoun, DT, Notre Dame; Larry Douglas, WR, Southern; Marcene Emmett, DB, North Alabama; Paul Harris, LB, Alabama; Peter Kuras, OG, North Dakota; Al Latimer, CB, Clemson; Dennis Mosley, RB, Iowa; Derrick Peels, RB, Santa Monica; Mike Richardson, RB, East Texas State; Frankie Smith, OT, Alabama A & I; Ken Times, DT, Southern; Herb Ward, DB, USC;

Peter Catan, DE, Eastern Illinois; Johnnie Dirden, WR, Sam Houston State; Steve Oliver, OT, Kansas; Dick Rigelhof, LB, North Dakota; Pat McBride, OC, North Dakota.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

Gary Albanese, DB, Middle Tennessee; Frank Collins, RB, Utah; Jim Culbreath, RB, Oklahoma; Zac Dibrell, LB, Arizona State; Richard Evans, DB, North Texas State; Jim Fitzpatrick, WR, Illinois State; Charlie Green, WR, Kansas State; Gary Harris, DB, Arizona; Donnie Henderson, DB, Utah State; Stan Johnson, DT, Tennessee State; Lee Jukes, WR, North Carolina State; Mike Kirtman, WR, San Jose State, (Buffalo-NFL); Quinten Lowry, LB, Youngstown State; Winston Newsome, WR, Napa Jr. College; Phil Prohaska, OG, Temple; Jerome Stanton, DB, Michigan State; Randy Young, OL, Iowa State; Mike Wright, QB, Bowling Green; Carl Zambelli, QB, Seton Hall.

MONTREAL ALOUETTES

Greg Butler, DB, Howard (Edmonton-CFL); Mike Carnell, RB, Olhime Jr. College (Calif.); Vince Ferragamo, QB, Nebraska (Los Angeles-NFL); Steve Gauntly, WR, Northern Colorado; Ed Harris, RB, Bishop College; Ray Honey, OG, Drake; Ben Hyland, DB, Delaware; Billy Johnson, WR, Widener (Houston-NFL); Bill Norton, OG, Weber State (Toronto-CFL); James Scott, WR, Henderson Jr. College (Chicago-NFL); Joe Taylor, WR, Northern Arizona; Chris Walby, DT, Dickinson State.

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

Gerald Bess, DB, Tuskegee; Jan Carinci, SB, Maryland; Darrell Chandler, RB, Virginia State; Ron Coleman, DE, Florida; Ron Davis, DB, Alabama State; Gwain Durden, RB, Tennessee State; Marcellus Greene, DB, Arizona; Keevan Grimmett, DE, Purdue; Drew Hardville, DB, Arizona; Larry Harmon, DB, Mississippi Valley State; Bob Harris, OT, Bowling Green; Condredge Holloway, QB, Tennessee (Ottawa-CFL); Dan Jackovich, OT, Utah State; Joe Jones, DE, Tennessee State (Washington Redskins-NFL); Tim Kiggins, DB, Alabama State; Todd Krohn, OT, Southern Oregon State; Thomas Lott, RB, Oklahoma; Ed Miksis, OT, Bradley; Cedric Minter, RB, Boise State; Jim Molini, DE, Iowa; Harold Norfleet, OT, Prairie View A&M; Tom Rusk, LB, Iowa; George Schechterly, OT, South Carolina; Hubert Simpson, RB, Tennessee; Robert Sowell, DB, Howard; Wayne Washington, OT, Missouri; James Wilson, DB, Utah.

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

Ricky Barden, CB, North Carolina; Kurt Brechbill, DT, Pittsburgh; Bob Brewer, OG, Temple; Mark Bright, RB, Temple; John Bristol, DB, Waynesburg College; Marlon "Bubba" Brown, MLB, Clemson; Matt Burnett, DT, Lamar; Scott Colton, DB, Ithaca College; Sharay Fields, CB, New Mexico; Greg Grimes, DB, Washington; David Keefe, LB/DT, Boston State; Mike Mason, OG, Southern Methodist; Mike McArthur, RB, McNeese State; Frank McClain, WR, North Texas State; Rick McCoy, CB, Temple; Mike Peerman, DT, Colorado; Wiley Pitts, WR, Temple; Kevin Powell, OT, Utah State (Toronto-CFL); Marcus Quinn, DB, Louisiana State; Keith Richardson, WR, Washington; Bill Schoepflin, CB, Brigham Young; Kevin Starkey, QB, Long Beach State; Rueben Turner, DB, Richmond; Bob Warsaw, OG, Eastern Oregon State; Bernard West, North Texas State; George Butts, LB, Norfolk St.; Elwin Worobec, OG, Utah; George Butts, LB, Norfolk State; Mike Peerman, DT, Colorado.

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1980 AFC

statistics

RECORDS

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)

TD's: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)

FG's: 34, Jim Turner, New York (1968)

PAT's: 64, George Blanda, Houston (1961)

AFC SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
New England	52	19	27	6	51	52	26	34	0	441
San Diego	50	18	30	2	46	49	24	36	0	418
Oakland	44	14	23	7	41	44	19	37	1	364
Cleveland	45	15	30	0	39	45	16	26	0	357
Baltimore	46	20	25	1	43	46	12	23	0	355
Pittsburgh	42	15	26	1	39	42	19	28	2	352
Buffalo	40	17	20	3	37	40	13	23	2	320
Kansas City	37	15	15	7	37	37	20	26	0	319
Denver	33	16	14	3	32	33	26	34	1	310
New York Jets	37	17	17	3	36	37	14	22	1	302
Houston	34	18	15	1	31	34	20	25	0	295
Seattle	33	13	18	2	33	33	20	31	0	291
Miami	32	9	21	2	32	32	14	23	0	266
Cincinnati	28	9	17	2	27	28	15	29	2	244

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Pts
Smith, John, N.E.	51	51	26	34	129
Benirschke, Rolf, S.D.	46	48	24	36	118
Steinfert, Fred, Den.	32	33	26	34	110
Bahr, Chris, Oak.	41	44	19	37	98
Lowery, Nick, K.C.	37	37	20	26	97
Bahr, Matt, Pitt.	39	42	19	28	96
Herrera, Efren, Sea.	33	33	20	31	93
Cockroft, Don, Clev.	39	44	16	26	87
Fritsch, Toni, Hou.	26	27	19	24	83
Mike-Mayer, Steve, Balt.	43	46	12	23	79
Leahy, Pat, N.Y.J.	36	36	14	22	78
Mike-Mayer, Nick, Buff.	37	39	13	23	76
von Schamann, Uwe, Mia.	32	32	14	23	74
Sunter, Ian, Cin.	15	15	11	20	48
Breech, Jim, Cin.	11	12	4	7	23
Marcol, Chester, G.B.-Hou.	8	10	3	7	#17
Thompson, Ted, Hou.	4	4	0	0	4
Vitiello, Sandro, Cin.	1	1	0	2	1

NON-KICKERS

	TD	R	P	M	Pts
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	13	13	0	0	78
Dickey, Curtis, Balt.	13	11	2	0	78
Jefferson, John, S.D.	13	0	13	0	78
Cribbs, Joe, Buff.	12	11	1	0	72
Chandler, Bob, Oak.	10	0	10	0	60
Calhoun, Don, N.E.	9	9	0	0	54
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	9	0	9	0	54
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	9	0	9	0	54
Francis, Russ, N.E.	8	0	8	0	48
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	7	0	7	0	42
Dierking, Scott, N.Y.J.	7	6	1	0	42
Johnson, Pete, Cin.	7	6	1	0	42
Moore, Nat, Mia.	7	0	7	0	42
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	7	0	7	0	42
Bass, Don, Cin.	6	0	6	0	36
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	6	0	6	0	36
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	6	4	2	0	36
Hill, Calvin, Clev.	6	0	6	0	36
Jodat, Jim, Sea.	6	5	1	0	36
Largent, Steve, Sea.	6	0	6	0	36
Lewis, Frank, Buff.	6	0	6	0	36
Long, Kevin, N.Y.J.	6	6	0	0	36
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	6	0	6	0	36
McCullum, Sam, Sea.	6	0	6	0	36
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	6	0	6	0	36
Muncie, Chuck, N.O.-S.D.	6	0	6	0	36
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	6	1	5	0	36
Odums, Riley, Den.	6	0	6	0	36
Pruitt, Mike, Clev.	6	6	0	0	36
White, Charles, Clev.	6	5	1	0	36

	TD	R	P	M	Pts
Barber, Mike, Hou.	5	0	5	0	30
Cappelletti, John, S.D.	5	5	0	0	30
Carr, Roger, Balt.	5	0	5	0	30
Doornink, Dan, Sea.	5	3	2	0	30
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	5	0	5	0	30
McCall, Reese, Balt.	5	0	5	0	30
McCauley, Don, Balt.	5	1	4	0	30
Morgado, Arnold, K.C.	5	4	1	0	30
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	5	0	5	0	30
Todd, Richard, N.Y.J.	5	5	0	0	30
van Eeghen, Mark, Oak.	5	5	0	0	30
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	4	4	0	0	24
Brammer, Mark, Buff.	4	0	4	0	24
Casper, Dave, Oak-Hou.	4	0	4	0	24
Chester, Raymond, Oak.	4	0	4	0	24
Feacher, Ricky, Clev.	4	0	4	0	24
Fuller, Steve, K.C.	4	4	0	0	24
Hasselbeck, Don, N.E.	4	0	4	0	24
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt.	4	4	0	0	24
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	4	0	4	0	24
King, Kenny, Oak.	4	4	0	0	24
Logan, Dave, Clev.	4	0	4	0	24
McCutcheon, Lawrence, Sea.	4	3	1	0	24
Moses, Haven, Den.	4	0	4	0	24
Preston, Dave, Den.	4	4	0	0	24
Ross, Dan, Cin.	4	0	4	0	24
Rucker, Reggie, Clev.	4	0	4	0	24
Smith, J.T., K.C.	4	0	2	2	24
Thornton, Sidney, Pitt.	4	3	1	0	24
Washington, Joe, Balt.	4	1	3	0	24
Whittington, Arthur, Oak.	4	3	0	1	24
Williams, Clarence, S.D.	4	3	1	0	24
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	3	3	0	0	18
Burke, Randy, Balt.	3	0	3	0	18
Carpenter, Rob, Hou.	3	3	0	0	18
Caster, Rich, Hou.	3	0	3	0	18
Curtis, Isaac, Cin.	3	0	3	0	18
Gaines, Clark, N.Y.J.	3	0	3	0	18
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	3	0	3	0	18
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	3	2	0	1	18
Jensen, Jim, Den.	3	2	1	0	18
Johnson, Andy, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Jones, Johnny, N.Y.J.	3	0	3	0	18
Leaks, Roosevelt, Buff.	3	2	1	0	18
McKnight, Ted, K.C.	3	3	0	0	18
Miller, Cleo, Clev.	3	3	0	0	18
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	3	0	3	0	18

* = Safety (also 1 each: Cin., N.Y.J., Pitt.)

= Marcol's NFL total of 23 points included 19 with Green Bay (13 points kicking, plus 1 touchdown)

t = Touchdown

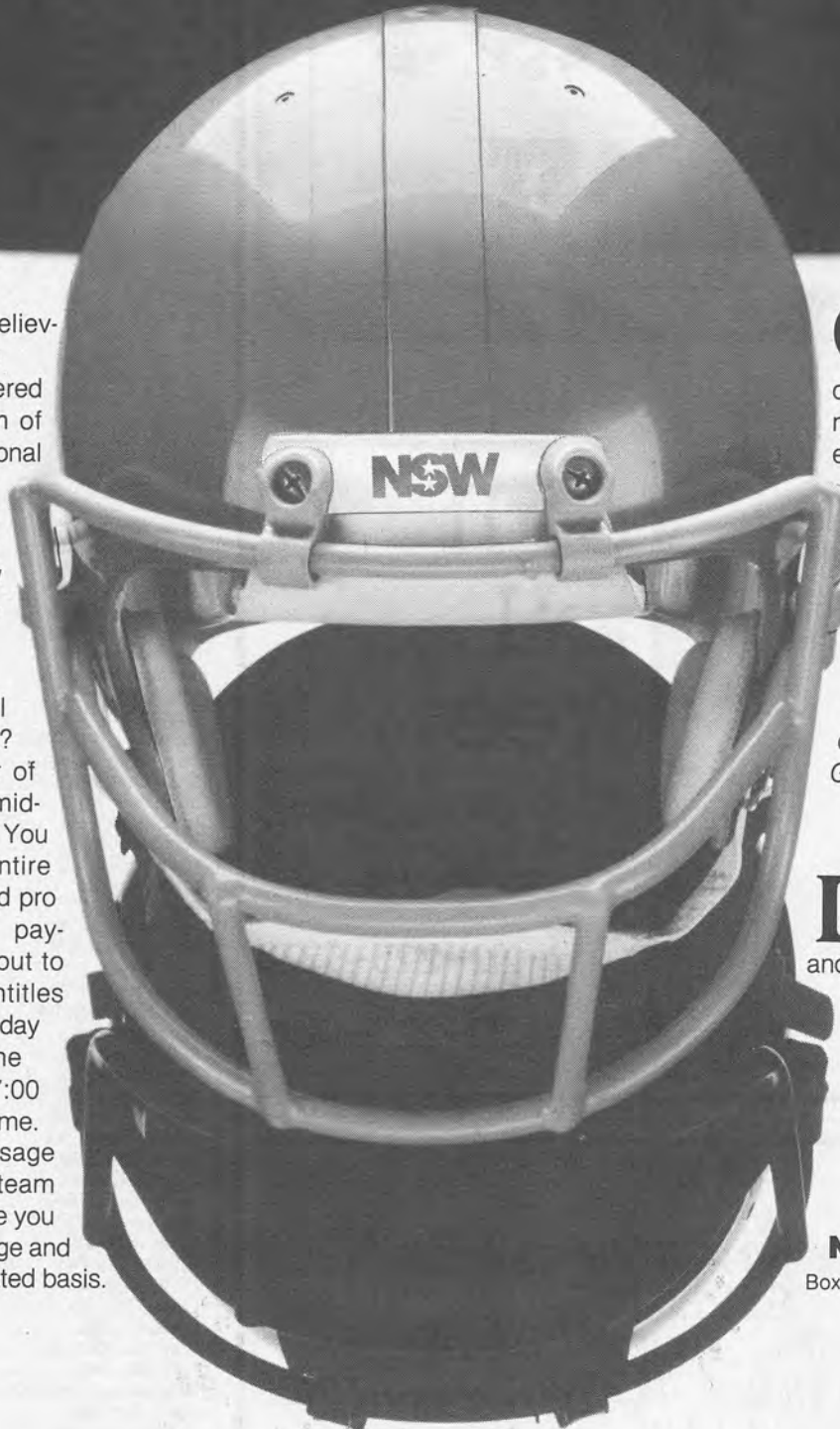
Cleveland's Brian Sipe was the top-rated quarterback in the AFC.

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Turn to Pages 9 & 63 and see why Danny Sheridan has been featured by all of them.

AFC Statistics

	TD	R	P	M	Pts
Robinson, Matt, Den.	3	3	0	0	18
Tatupu, Mosi, N.E.	3	3	0	0	18
Thomas, Mike, S.D.	3	3	0	0	18
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	3	0	3	0	18
Woodley, David, Mia.	3	3	0	0	18
Wright, Keith, Clev.	3	0	3	0	18
Alexander, Charles, Cin.	2	2	0	0	12
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	2	0	2	0	12
Belton, Horace, K.C.	2	2	0	0	12
Bleier, Rocky, Pitt.	2	1	1	0	12
Bradshaw, Terry, Pitt.	2	2	0	0	12
Butler, Ray, Balt.	2	0	2	0	12
Clark, Allan, N.E.	2	1	0	1	12
Cunningham, Bennie, Pitt.	2	0	2	0	12
Ferguson, Vagas, N.E.	2	2	0	0	12
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	2	2	0	0	12
Franklin, Cleveland, Balt.	2	2	0	0	12
Gaffney, Derrick, N.Y.J.	2	0	2	0	12
Giaquinto, Nick, Mia.	2	0	1	1	12
Griffin, Ray, Cin.	2	0	0	2	12
Hadnot, James, K.C.	2	2	0	0	12
Hardy, Bruce, Mia.	2	0	2	0	12
Harris, Duriel, Mia.	2	0	2	0	12
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	2	0	2	0	12
Jones, Bert, Balt.	2	2	0	0	12
Lee, Ron, Mia.	2	0	2	0	12
McCrary, Gregg, S.D.	2	0	2	0	12
McNally, Pat, Cin.	2	0	2	0	12
Plunkett, Jim, Oak.	2	2	0	0	12
Ray, Darroll, N.Y.J.	2	0	0	2	12
Robiskie, Terry, Mia.	2	2	0	0	12
Samuels, Tony, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Shuler, Mickey, N.Y.J.	2	0	2	0	12
Sims, Marvin, Balt.	2	2	0	0	12
Spani, Gary, K.C.	2	0	0	2	12
Williams, Delvin, Mia.	2	2	0	0	12
Wilson, Tim, Hou.	2	1	1	0	12
Barkum, Jerome, N.Y.J.	1	0	1	0	6
Bauer, Hank, S.D.	1	1	0	0	6
Bennett, Woody, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Bessillieu, Don, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Bradshaw, Morris, Oak.	1	0	1	0	6
Brinson, Larry, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6
Cefalo, Jimmy, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Christensen, Todd, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	1	1	0	0	6
Corker, John, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Darby, Paul, N.Y.J.	1	0	1	0	6
Davis, Russell, Pitt.	1	1	0	0	6
Dixon, Al, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Edwards, Glen, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Essink, Ron, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Floyd, John, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Foreman, Chuck, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Freeman, Steve, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Gant, Reuben, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
Garcia, Bubba, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Gradishar, Randy, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Green, Jessie, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Hayes, Lester, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Haynes, Mike, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	1	1	0	0	6
Howard, Thomas, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Howell, Steve, Mia.	1	1	0	0	6
James, Roland, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Jensen, Derrick, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Jessie, Ron, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
Jones, Willie, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	1	1	0	0	6
Landry, Greg, Balt.	1	1	0	0	6
Latimer, Don, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Lewis, Will, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Lowe, Woodrow, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Lytte, Rob, Den.	1	1	0	0	6
Manumaleuga, Frank, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Martin, Rod, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Morton, Craig, Den.	1	1	0	0	6
Nixon, Jeff, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Owens, Burgess, Oak.	1	0	0	1	6
Paul, Whitney, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Pennywell, Carlos, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Reed, Tony, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Renfro, Mike, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Sanford, Lucius, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Sanford, Rick, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6

	TD	R	P	M	Pts
Schroy, Ken, N.Y.J.	1	0	0	1	6
Shiver, Sanders, Balt.	1	0	0	1	6
Shoate, Rod, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Siani, Mike, Balt.	1	0	1	0	6
Sipe, Brian, Clev.	1	1	0	0	6
Smith, Sherman, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Stallworth, John, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Sweeney, Calvin, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Thompson, Bill, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Thompson, Jack, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
Turner, Deacon, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
Walker, Wesley, N.Y.J.	1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Mike, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Winston, Dennis, Pitt.	1	0	0	1	6
Zorn, Jim, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6
Hendricks, Ted, Oak.	0	0	0	0	*2
Johnson, Ken, Buff.	0	0	0	0	*2
Jones, Rulon, Den.	0	0	0	0	*2
Simpson, Bill, Buff.	0	0	0	0	*2
Toews, Loren, Pitt.	0	0	0	0	*2
Williams, Reggie, Cin.	0	0	0	0	*2

AFC RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 373, Earl Campbell, Houston (1980)

Yards: 2,003, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)

TD's: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)

10 OR MORE YARDS	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	373	1934	5.2	155	13
Cribbs, Joe, Buff.	306	1185	3.9	48	11
Pruitt, Mike, Cleve.	249	1034	4.2	156	6
van Egghen, Mark, Oak.	222	838	3.8	34	5
Muncie, Chuck, N.O.-S.D.	175	827	4.7	53	6
Ferguson, Vagas, N.E.	211	818	3.9	44	2
Dickey, Curtis, Balt.	176	800	4.5	151	11
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	208	789	3.8	26	4
Calhoun, Don, N.E.	200	787	3.9	122	9
King, Kenny, Oak.	172	761	4.4	189	4
Johnson, Pete, Cin.	186	747	4.0	157	6
Alexander, Charles, Cin.	169	702	4.2	37	2
McKnight, Ted, K.C.	206	693	3.4	25	3
Williams, Delvin, Mia.	187	671	3.6	65	2
Jodat, Jim, Sea.	155	632	4.1	26	5
Dierking, Scott, N.Y.J.	156	567	3.6	15	6
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	153	559	3.7	134	3
Washington, Joe, Balt.	144	502	3.5	17	1
Thomas, Mike, S.D.	118	484	4.1	18	3
Jensen, Jim, Den.	101	476	4.7	32	2
Armstrong, Otis, Den.	106	470	4.4	20	4
Preston, Dave, Den.	111	385	3.5	19	4
Cappelletti, John, S.D.	101	364	3.6	46	5
Carpenter, Rob, Hou.	97	359	3.7	46	3
Long, Kevin, N.Y.J.	115	355	3.1	18	6
Doornink, Dan, Sea.	100	344	3.4	22	3
Bleier, Rocky, Pitt.	78	340	4.4	19	1
Todd, Richard, N.Y.J.	49	330	6.7	131	5
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	60	327	5.5	18	1
Thornton, Sidney, Pitt.	78	325	4.2	28	3
Newton, Tom, N.Y.J.	59	299	5.1	23	0
Whittington, Arthur, Oak.	91	299	3.3	142	3
White, Charles, Clev.	86	279	3.2	16	5
Fuller, Steve, K.C.	60	274	4.6	138	4
Belton, Horace, K.C.	68	273	4.0	14	2
Franklin, Cleveland, Balt.	83	264	3.2	21	2
Griffin, Archie, Cin.	85	260	3.1	14	0
Williams, Clarence, S.D.	97	258	2.7	13	3
Wilson, Tim, Hou.	66	257	3.9	15	1
McCutcheon, Lawrence, Den-Sea	52	254	4.9	32	3
Robiskie, Terry, Mia.	78	250	3.2	36	2
Hadnot, James, K.C.	76	244	3.2	11	2
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt.	63	226	3.6	15	4
Lytle, Rob, Den.	57	223	3.9	35	1
Leaks, Roosevelt, Buff.	67	219	3.3	15	2
Zorn, Jim, Sea.	44	214	4.9	25	1
Woodley, David, Mia.	55	214	3.9	17	3
Howell, Steve, Mia.	60	206	3.4	23	1
Moore, Jeff, Sea.	60	202	3.4	20	0
Bennett, Woody, N.Y.J.-Mia.	46	200	4.3	19	0
Sims, Marvin, Balt.	54	186	3.4	13	2
Reed, Tony, K.C.	68	180	2.6	24	0
Jones, Bert, Balt.	27	175	6.5	19	2
Gaines, Clark, N.Y.J.	36	174	4.8	15	0

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*As of April 1981

AFC Statistics

	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Plunkett, Jim, Oak.	28	141	5.0	17	2
Miller, Cleo, Clev.	28	139	5.0	50	3
McCauley, Don, Balt.	35	133	3.8	12	1
Davis, Russell, Pitt.	33	132	4.0	12	1
Turner, Deacon, Cin.	30	130	4.3	24	0
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	38	127	3.3	14	1
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	45	126	2.8	22	0
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	16	122	7.6	20	0
Morgado, Arnold, K.C.	47	120	2.6	11	4
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	25	118	4.7	25	1
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	40	117	2.9	19	0
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	30	112	3.7	19	1
Bradshaw, Terry, Pitt.	36	111	3.1	18	2
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	42	111	2.6	120	2
Cavanaugh, Matt, N.E.	19	97	5.1	22	0
Tatupu, Mosi, N.E.	33	97	2.9	11	3
Smith, Sherman, Sea.	23	94	4.1	23	0
Thompson, Jack, Cin.	18	84	4.7	115	1
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	14	82	5.9	27	1
Ferguson, Joe, Buff.	31	65	2.1	15	0
Foreman, Chuck, N.E.	23	63	2.7	7	1
Brinson, Larry, Sea.	16	57	3.6	122	1
Clark, Allan, N.E.	9	56	6.2	15	1
Sipe, Brian, Clev.	20	55	2.8	24	1
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	5	49	9.8	21	0
Robinson, Matt, Den.	21	47	2.2	22	3
Carson, Carlos, K.C.	2	41	20.5	37	0
Russell, Booker, S.D.	8	41	5.1	10	0
Guy, Ray, Oak.	3	38	12.7	24	0
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	5	37	7.4	16	0
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	4	36	9.0	16	0
Stoudt, Cliff, Pitt.	9	35	3.9	13	0
Miller, Terry, Buff.	12	35	2.9	6	0
Bauer, Hank, S.D.	10	34	3.4	7	1
Gant, Earl, K.C.	9	32	3.6	11	0
Jensen, Derrick, Oak.	14	30	2.1	4	0
Manucci, Dan, Buff.	3	29	9.7	17	0
Morton, Craig, Den.	21	29	1.4	9	1
Hall, Dino, Clev.	2	26	13.0	19	0
Landry, Greg, Balt.	7	26	3.7	14	1
Johnson, Andy, N.E.	11	26	2.4	11	0
Pastorini, Dan, Oak.	4	24	6.0	10	0
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	3	22	7.3	9	0
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Adkins, Sam, Sea.	6	18	3.0	12	0
Colquitt, Craig, Pitt.	1	17	17.0	17	0
Jefferson, John, S.D.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Pollard, Frank, Pitt.	4	16	4.0	12	0
Giaquinto, Nick, Mia.	5	16	3.2	5	0
Darby, Paul, N.Y.J.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	23	15	0.7	9	2
Hunter, Al, Sea.	9	14	1.6	7	0
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	2	13	6.5	9	0
Montgomery, Cleotha, Cin.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Renfro, Mike, Hou.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Hill, Calvin, Clev.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Matthews, Ira, Oak.	5	11	2.2	5	0

AFC	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Houston	573	2,635	4.6	155	18
New England	588	2,240	3.8	44	19
Buffalo	603	2,222	3.7	48	17
Oakland	541	2,146	4.0	189	14
Baltimore	527	2,078	3.9	151	20
Cincinnati	513	2,069	4.0	157	9
Pittsburgh	512	1,986	3.9	28	15
San Diego	509	1,879	3.7	53	18
Miami	492	1,876	3.8	65	9
New York Jets	470	1,873	4.0	131	17
Kansas City	552	1,873	3.4	138	15
Denver	480	1,865	3.9	35	16
Seattle	456	1,783	3.9	32	13
Cleveland	436	1,673	3.8	156	15

AFC PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964)

Yards: 1,746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961)

TD's: 17, Bill Groman, Houston (1961)

8 OR MORE RECEPTIONS	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	89	1290	14.5	65	9
Jefferson, John, S.D.	82	1340	16.3	153	13

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	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	71	1132	15.9	51	4
Largent, Steve, Sea.	66	1064	16.1	167	6
Pruitt, Mike, Clev.	63	471	7.5	28	0
McCullum, Sam, Sea.	62	874	14.1	58	6
Carr, Roger, Balt.	61	924	15.1	43	5
Barber, Mike, Hou.	59	712	12.1	179	5
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	57	832	14.6	69	6
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	57	588	10.3	61	5
Casper, Dave, Oak.-Hou.	56	796	14.2	43	4
Ross, Dan, Cin.	56	724	12.9	37	4
Rucker, Reggie, Clev.	52	768	14.8	45	4
Cribbs, Joe, Buff.	52	415	8.0	121	1
Logan, Dave, Clev.	51	822	16.1	65	4
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	51	594	11.6	44	3
Washington, Joe, Balt.	51	494	9.7	33	3
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	50	634	12.7	52	3
Pruitt, Greg, Clev.	50	444	8.9	43	5
Chandler, Bob, Oak.	49	786	16.0	56	10
Jensen, Jim, Den.	49	377	7.7	28	1
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	47	799	17.0	175	6
Moore, Nat, Mia.	47	564	12.0	33	7
Smith, J.T., K.C.	46	655	14.2	77	2
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	46	605	13.2	35	3
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	45	991	22.0	71	6
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	44	858	19.5	186	7
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	44	710	16.1	168	7
Reed, Tony, K.C.	44	422	9.6	34	1
Curtis, Isaac, Cin.	43	610	14.2	167	3
Carpenter, Rob, Hou.	43	346	8.0	25	0
Francis, Russ, N.E.	41	664	16.2	139	8
Lewis, Frank, Buff.	40	648	16.2	131	6
Odoms, Riley, Den.	39	590	15.1	30	6
Moses, Haven, Den.	38	674	17.7	33	4
McKnight, Ted, K.C.	38	320	8.4	26	0
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	37	711	19.2	145	9
Sawyer, John, Sea.	36	410	11.4	32	0
Gaines, Clark, N.Y.J.	36	310	8.6	116	3
Alexander, Charles, Cin.	36	192	5.3	23	0
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	35	737	21.1	40	5
Renfro, Mike, Hou.	35	459	13.1	42	1
Preston, Dave, Den.	35	309	8.8	36	0
Butler, Ray, Balt.	34	574	16.9	42	2
McCauley, Don, Balt.	34	313	9.2	19	4
Harris, Duriel, Mia.	33	583	17.7	54	2
Bass, Don, Cin.	32	409	12.8	155	6
Johnson, Billy, Hou.	31	343	11.1	157	2
Muncie, Chuck, N.O.-S.D.	31	259	8.4	19	0
Doornink, Dan, Sea.	31	237	7.6	16	2
Williams, Delvin, Mia.	31	207	6.7	19	0
Harris, Franco, Pitt.	30	196	6.5	31	2
Wilson, Tim, Hou.	30	170	5.7	13	1
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	29	748	25.8	72	2
van Eeghen, Mark, Oak.	29	259	8.9	37	0
Thomas, Mike, S.D.	29	218	7.5	27	0
Chester, Raymond, Oak.	28	366	13.1	47	4
Griffin, Archie, Cin.	28	196	7.0	19	0
Hill, Calvin, Clev.	27	383	14.2	50	6
Caster, Rich, Hou.	27	341	12.6	168	3
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	27	137	5.1	20	0
Calhoun, Don, N.E.	27	129	4.8	12	0
Brammer, Mark, Buff.	26	283	10.9	36	4
Williams, Clarence, S.D.	26	230	8.8	26	1
Jodat, Jim, Sea.	26	190	7.3	14	1
Jones, Johnny, N.Y.J.	25	482	19.3	55	3
Moore, Jeff, Sea.	25	231	9.2	34	0
Dickey, Curtis, Balt.	25	204	8.2	32	2
Gaffney, Derrick, N.Y.J.	24	397	16.5	36	2
Johnson, Andy, N.E.	24	259	10.8	22	3
Giaquinto, Nick, Mia.	24	192	8.0	25	1
Grossman, Randy, Pitt.	23	293	12.7	35	0
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	23	179	7.8	26	0
Shuler, Mickey, N.Y.J.	22	226	10.3	26	2
Ferguson, Vagas, N.E.	22	173	7.9	18	0
King, Kenny, Oak.	22	145	6.6	18	0
Bleier, Rocky, Pitt.	21	174	8.3	17	1
Johnson, Pete, Cin.	21	172	8.2	128	1
Newton, Tom, N.Y.J.	20	144	7.2	18	0
Long, Kevin, N.Y.J.	20	137	6.9	16	0
Whittington, Arthur, Oak.	19	205	10.8	55	0
Hardy, Bruce, Mia.	19	159	8.4	19	2
Dierking, Scott, N.Y.J.	19	138	7.3	22	1
Walker, Wesley, N.Y.J.	18	376	20.9	47	1
McCall, Reese, Balt.	18	322	17.9	47	5
McInally, Pat, Cin.	18	269	14.9	159	2
Cunningham, Bennie, Pitt.	18	232	12.9	35	2
Lytle, Rob, Den.	18	177	9.8	37	0



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AFC Statistics

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Kreider, Steve, Cin.	17	272	16.0	30	0
White, Charles, Clev.	17	152	9.0	131	1
Raible, Steve, Sea.	16	232	14.5	40	0
Coleman, Ronnie, Hou.	16	168	10.5	27	0
Thornon, Sidney, Pitt.	15	131	8.7	129	1
Hadnot, James, K.C.	15	97	6.5	18	0
Keyworth, Jon, Den.	15	87	5.8	22	0
Jones, Bobby, N.Y.J.	14	193	13.8	25	0
Burke, Randy, Balt.	14	185	13.2	119	3
Franklin, Cleveland, Balt.	14	112	8.0	16	0
Foreman, Chuck, N.E.	14	99	7.1	18	0
Barkum, Jerome, N.Y.J.	13	244	18.8	28	1
Rose, Joe, Mia.	13	149	11.5	50	0
Cappelletti, John, S.D.	13	112	8.6	12	0
Robiskie, Terry, Mia.	13	60	4.6	15	0
Sweeney, Calvin, Pitt.	12	282	23.5	34	1
Gant, Reuben, Buff.	12	181	15.1	48	1
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt.	12	158	13.2	33	0
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	12	95	7.9	19	0
Turner, Deacon, Cin.	12	73	6.1	15	1
Cefalo, Jimmy, Mia.	11	199	18.1	52	1
McCrary, Gregg, S.D.	11	106	9.6	128	2

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Campbell, Earl, Hou.	11	47	4.3	10	0
Feacher, Ricky, Clev.	10	244	24.4	155	4
Harris, M.L., Cin.	10	137	13.7	26	0
Stallworth, John, Pitt.	9	197	21.9	150	1
Siani, Mike, Balt.	9	174	19.3	138	1
McCutcheon, Lawrence, Den-Sea	9	76	8.4	17	1
Gant, Earl, K.C.	9	68	7.6	33	0
Sims, Marvin, Balt.	9	64	7.1	13	0
Adams, Willis, Clev.	8	165	20.6	39	0
Hasselbeck, Don, N.E.	8	130	16.3	135	4
Samuels, Tony, K.C.	8	110	13.8	34	2
Leaks, Roosevelt, Buff.	8	57	7.1	18	1

AFC TOP 25 PASS RECEIVERS BY YARDS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Jefferson, John, S.D.	1340	82	16.3	158	13
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	1290	89	14.5	65	9
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	1132	71	15.9	51	4
Largent, Steve, Sea.	1064	66	16.1	167	6
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	991	45	22.0	71	6
Carr, Roger, Balt.	924	61	15.1	43	5
McCullum, Sam, Sea.	874	62	14.1	58	6
Branch, Cliff, Oak.	858	44	19.5	186	7
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	832	57	14.6	69	6

AFC PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 348, Dan Fouts, San Diego (1980)

TD's: 36, George Blanda, Houston (1961)

Yards: 4,715, Dan Fouts, San Diego (1980)

Longest for TD: 98 yards, Jacky Lee to Willard Dewveall (1962)

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yards	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Points
Sipe, Brian, Clev.	554	337	60.8	4132	7.46	30	5.4	65	14	2.5	91.4
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	589	348	59.1	4715	8.01	30	5.1	65	24	4.1	84.6
Morton, Craig, Den.	301	183	60.8	2150	7.14	12	4.0	41	13	4.3	77.9
Fuller, Steve, K.C.	320	193	60.3	2250	7.03	10	3.1	77	12	3.8	76.1
Jones, Bert, Balt.	446	248	55.6	3134	7.03	23	5.2	47	21	4.7	75.5
Bradshaw, Terry, Pitts.	424	218	51.4	3339	7.88	24	5.7	168	22	5.2	75.1
Ferguson, Joe, Buff.	439	251	57.2	2805	6.39	20	4.6	69	18	4.1	74.6
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	306	175	57.2	2475	8.09	18	5.9	71	22	7.2	73.1
Plunkett, Jim, Oak.	320	165	51.6	2299	7.18	18	5.6	186	16	5.0	72.8
Zorn, Jim, Sea.	488	276	56.6	3346	6.86	17	3.5	167	20	4.1	72.4
Stabler, Ken, Hou.	457	293	64.1	3202	7.01	13	2.8	179	28	6.1	68.6
Anderson, Ken, Cin.	275	166	60.4	1778	6.47	6	2.2	167	13	4.7	67.1
Woodley, David, Mia.	327	176	53.8	1850	5.66	14	4.3	61	17	5.2	63.2
Todd, Richard, N.Y.J.	479	264	55.1	3329	6.95	17	3.5	55	30	6.3	62.4
Thompson, Jack, Cin.	234	115	49.1	1324	5.66	11	4.7	159	12	5.1	61.0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Cavanaugh, Matt, N.E.	105	63	60.0	885	8.43	9	8.6	40	5	4.8	95.9
Kenney, Bill, K.C.	69	37	53.6	542	7.86	5	7.2	175	2	2.9	91.4
Griese, Bob, Mia.	100	61	61.0	790	7.90	6	6.0	54	4	4.0	89.2
Stoudt, Cliff, Pitt.	60	32	53.3	493	8.22	2	3.3	72	2	3.3	78.0
Clements, Tom, K.C.	12	7	58.3	77	6.42	0	0.0	18	0	0.0	77.4
Pastorini, Dan, Oak.	130	66	50.8	932	7.17	5	3.8	56	8	6.2	61.1
Landry, Greg, Balt.	47	24	51.1	275	5.85	2	4.3	32	3	6.4	56.7
Robinson, Matt, Den.	162	78	48.1	942	5.81	2	1.2	52	12	7.4	39.6
Adkins, Sam, Sea.	23	10	43.5	136	5.91	1	4.3	22	3	13.0	37.7
Strock, Don, Mia.	62	30	48.4	313	5.05	1	1.6	33	5	8.1	35.1
Humm, David, Buff.	14	4	28.6	39	2.79	0	0.0	19	1	7.1	10.0

AFC PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 105, Bob Scarpitto, Denver (1967)

Average: 46.2 yards, Dave Lewis, Cincinnati (1970)

Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

	No	Yds	Long	Avg	Total Punts	TB	Blk	Opp Ret	Ret Yds	In 20	Net Avg
Prestridge, Luke, Den.	70	3075	57	43.9	70	6	0	52	443	10	35.9
Guy, Ray, Oak.	71	3099	66	43.6	71	14	0	34	268	18	35.9
Roberts, George, Mia.	77	3279	71	42.6	79	8	2	42	339	18	35.2
Ramsey, Chuck, N.Y.J.	73	3096	59	42.4	74	10	1	46	369	15	34.1
Weaver, Herman, Sea.	67	2798	62	41.8	69	7	2	42	478	14	31.6
McInally, Pat, Cin.	83	3390	61	40.8	85	12	2	45	476	21	31.5
Colquitt, Craig, Pitt.	61	2483	54	40.7	61	5	0	34	217	13	35.5
Parsley, Cliff, Hou.	67	2727	57	40.7	67	8	0	40	394	19	32.4
Grupp, Bob, K.C.	84	3317	57	39.5	85	8	1	44	289	23	33.7
Partridge, Rick, S.D.	60	2347	55	39.1	61	3	1	43	359	10	31.6
Bragg, Mike, Balt.	82	3203	59	39.1	84	6	2	49	357	22	32.5
Cater, Greg, Buff.	73	2828	61	38.7	74	16	1	34	204	12	31.1
Evans, Johnny, Clev.	66	2530	56	38.3	66	7	0	38	245	12	32.5
Hubach, Mike, N.E.	63	2392	69	38.0	63	2	0	28	237	12	33.6

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	Yds	No	Avg	Lng	TD
Logan, Dave, Clev.	822	51	16.1	65	4
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	799	47	17.0	175	6
Casper, Dave, Oak.-Hou.	796	56	14.2	43	4
Chandler, Bob, Oak.	786	49	16.0	56	10
Rucker, Reggie, Clev.	768	52	14.8	45	4
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	748	29	25.8	72	2
Jackson, Harold, N.E.	737	35	21.1	40	5
Ross, Dan, Cin.	724	56	12.9	37	4
Barber, Mike, Hou.	712	59	12.1	179	5
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	711	37	19.2	145	9
Swann, Lynn, Pitt.	710	44	16.1	168	7
Moses, Haven, Den.	674	38	17.7	33	4
Francis, Russ, N.E.	664	41	26.2	139	8
Smith, J.T., K.C.	655	46	14.2	77	2
Lewis, Frank, Buff.	648	40	16.2	131	6
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	634	50	12.7	52	3

AFC PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 58, J.T. Smith, Kansas City (1979)

Yards: 655, Neal Colzie, Oakland (1975)

Longest for TD: 95 yards, Les Duncan, San Diego (1968)

2 OR MORE	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Smith, J.T., K.C.	40	8	581	14.5	175	2
James, Roland, N.E.	33	3	331	10.0	175	1
Bell, Theo, Pitt.	34	6	339	10.0	27	0
Fuller, Mike, S.D.	30	12	298	9.9	31	0
Upchurch, Rick, Den.	37	6	353	9.5	34	0
Matthews, Ira, Oak.	48	7	421	8.8	34	0
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	28	7	242	8.6	24	0
Lewis, Will, Sea.	41	9	349	8.5	175	1
Haynes, Mike, N.E.	17	2	140	8.2	35	0
Roaches, Carl, Hou.	47	6	384	8.2	68	0
Glasgow, Nesby, Balt.	23	15	187	8.1	20	0
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	23	11	178	7.7	30	0
Montgomery, Cleotha, Cin.	31	7	223	7.2	42	0
Cribbs, Joe, Buff.	29	7	154	5.3	16	0
Wright, Keith, Clev.	29	4	129	4.4	15	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Brown, Preston, N.E.	10	1	42	4.2	14	0
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	8	2	90	11.3	17	0
Giaquinto, Nick, Mia.	7	1	35	5.0	15	0
Smith, Jim, Pitt.	7	0	28	4.0	11	0
Hall, Dino, Clev.	6	3	41	6.8	14	0
Heath, Jo-Jo, Cin.	6	1	29	4.8	11	0
Shaw, Pete, S.D.	5	0	20	4.0	6	0
Schroy, Ken, N.Y.J.	4	0	27	6.8	15	0
Edwards, Glen, S.D.	4	1	17	4.3	8	0
Cobb, Marvin, Pitt.	3	0	19	6.3	13	0
Anderson, Kim, Balt.	3	0	1	0.3	1	0
Harden, Mike, Den.	2	0	36	18.0	23	0
Piccone, Lou, Buff.	2	3	15	7.5	8	0
Brunson, Larry, Den.	2	0	12	6.0	12	0

AFC KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 55, Bruce Harper, New York (1978, 1979)

55, David Turner, Cincinnati (1979)

Yards: 1,317, Bobby Jancik, Houston (1983)

Longest: 106 yards, Noland Smith, Kansas City (1967)

TD's: 3, Ray Clayborn, New England (1977)

6 OR MORE	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Ivory, Horace, N.E.	36	992	27.6	198	1
Lewis, Will, Sea.	25	585	23.4	54	0
Brunson, Larry, Den.	40	923	23.1	53	0
Wright, Keith, Clev.	25	576	23.0	50	0
Carson, Carlos, K.C.	40	917	22.9	47	0
Glasgow, Nesby, Balt.	33	743	22.5	44	0
Pollard, Frank, Pitt.	22	494	22.5	34	0
Bessillieu, Don, Mia.	40	890	22.3	87	0
Harper, Bruce, N.Y.J.	49	1070	21.8	35	0
Hall, Dino, Clev.	32	691	21.6	40	0
Muncie, Chuck, S.D.	16	344	21.5	44	0
Matthews, Ira, Oak.	29	585	20.2	45	0
Roaches, Carl, Hou.	37	746	20.2	46	0
Webster, Cornell, Sea.	21	406	19.3	34	0
Anderson, Kim, Balt.	20	386	19.3	35	0
Montgomery, Cleotha, Cin.	44	843	19.2	40	0

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AFC Statistics

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Miller, Terry, Buff.	16	303	18.9	43	0
Whittington, Arthur, Oak.	21	392	18.7	190	1
NON-QUALIFIERS					
Fuller, Mike, S.D.	15	289	19.3	30	0
Green, Jessie, Sea.	15	289	19.3	30	0
Anderson, Larry, Pitt.	14	379	27.1	63	0
Groth, Jeff, Hou.	12	216	18.0	27	0
Harden, Mike, Den.	12	214	17.8	35	0
Hunter, Al, Sea.	11	213	19.4	40	0
Smith, Ron, S.D.	10	186	18.6	27	0
Brown, Curtis, Buff.	10	181	18.1	25	0
Turner, Deacon, Cin.	9	173	19.2	31	0
Hawthorne, Greg, Pitt.	9	169	18.8	36	0
Davis, Russell, Pitt.	9	160	17.8	24	0
Brown, Preston, N.E.	9	156	17.3	26	0
Jackson, Bernard, S.D.	9	149	16.6	32	0
Giaquinto, Nick, Mia.	9	146	16.2	22	0
Owens, Artie, Buff.	8	157	19.6	29	0
Moody, Keith, Oak.	8	159	18.8	39	0
Darby, Paul, N.Y.J.	7	139	19.9	30	0
Hooks, Roland, Buff.	7	109	15.6	35	0
Belton, Horace, K.C.	6	110	18.3	35	0
Currier, Bill, N.E.	6	98	16.3	26	0
Bennett, Woody, N.Y.J.	6	88	14.7	26	0

AFC INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980)

Yards: 349, Charley McNeil, San Diego (1961)

Longest return: 102 yards, Gary Barbaro, Kansas City (1977)

TD's: 4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)

4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1972)

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Oakland	35	501	14.3	62	2
Kansas City	28	364	13.0	147	2
Miami	28	198	7.1	44	0
Houston	26	313	12.0	42	0
Pittsburgh	26	260	10.0	67	0
Buffalo	24	334	13.9	150	2
New England	24	288	12.0	142	1
New York Jets	23	293	12.7	182	2
Seattle	23	95	4.1	24	0
Cleveland	22	266	12.1	53	0
San Diego	20	270	13.5	168	2
Cincinnati	20	255	12.8	152	2
Baltimore	17	310	18.2	60	1
Denver	16	343	21.4	193	2
Hayes, Lester, Oak.	13	273	21.0	62	1
Barbaro, Gary, K.C.	10	163	16.3	39	0
Schroy, Ken, N.Y.J.	8	91	11.4	182	1
Shell, Donnie, Pitt.	7	135	19.3	67	0
Freeman, Steve, Buff.	7	107	15.3	147	1
Tatum, Jack, Hou.	7	100	14.3	35	0
Breedon, Louis, Cin.	7	91	13.0	29	0
Harris, Eric, K.C.	7	54	7.7	41	0
Small, Gerald, Mia.	7	46	6.6	22	0
Ray, Darrol, N.Y.J.	6	132	22.0	171	1
Bolton, Ron, Clev.	6	62	10.3	29	0
Brown, Dave, Sea.	6	32	5.3	24	0
Harris, John, Sea.	6	28	4.7	15	0
Wagner, Mike, Pitt.	6	27	4.5	17	0
Edwards, Glen, S.D.	5	122	24.4	168	1
Clayborn, Ray, N.E.	5	87	17.4	29	0
Perry, Vernon, Hou.	5	85	17.0	42	0
Nixon, Jeff, Buff.	5	81	16.2	150	1
Laird, Bruce, Balt.	5	71	14.2	18	0
Burrell, Clinton, Clev.	5	51	10.2	29	0
McNeal, Don, Mia.	5	17	3.4	15	0
Dykes, Donald, N.Y.J.	5	1	0.2	1	0
Foley, Steve, Den.	4	115	28.8	36	0
Glasgow, Nesby, Balt.	4	65	16.3	29	0
Shaw, Pete, S.D.	4	50	12.5	25	0
Fox, Tim, N.E.	4	41	10.3	23	0
Reinfeldt, Mike, Hou.	4	36	9.0	23	0
Simpson, Bill, Buff.	4	36	9.0	14	0
James, Roland, N.E.	4	32	8.0	19	0
Blount, Mel, Pitt.	4	28	7.0	17	0
Stemrick, Greg, Hou.	4	25	6.3	15	0
Bessillieu, Don, Mia.	4	13	3.3	12	0
Davis, Mike, Oak.	3	88	29.3	49	0
Lowe, Woodrow, S.D.	3	72	24.0	28	1
Owens, Burgess, Oak.	3	59	19.7	158	1

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Taylor, Ed, Mia.	3	55	18.3	44	0
Shoate, Rod, N.E.	3	50	16.7	142	1
Manumaleuga, Frank, K.C.	3	44	14.7	122	1
Cameron, Ross, Cin.	3	43	14.3	27	0
Nelson, Steve, N.E.	3	37	12.3	33	0
Rhone, Earnest, Mia.	3	33	11.0	12	0
McKinney, Odis, Oak.	3	22	7.3	22	0
Simpson, Keith, Sea.	3	15	5.0	10	0
Hendricks, Ted, Oak.	3	10	3.3	5	0
O'Steen, Dwayne, Oak.	3	10	3.3	14	0
Riley, Ken, Cin.	3	9	3.0	9	0
Blackwood, Glenn, Mia.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Gradishar, Randy, Den.	2	96	48.0	193	1
Brazile, Larry, Balt.	2	87	43.5	60	0
Griffin, Ray, Cin.	2	80	40.0	152	2
Thompson, Bill, Den.	2	49	24.5	36	0
Crosby, Ron, N.Y.J.	2	47	23.5	42	0
Darden, Thom, Clev.	2	42	21.0	23	0
Romes, Charles, Buff.	2	41	20.5	30	0
Robertson, Isiah, Buff.	2	39	19.5	39	0
Brazile, Robert, Hou.	2	38	19.0	33	0
Anderson, Kim, Balt.	2	35	17.5	18	0
Haslett, Jim, Buff.	2	30	15.0	17	0
Wilson, J.C., Hou.	2	26	13.0	26	0
Christopher, Herb, K.C.	2	25	12.5	25	0
Green, Gary, K.C.	2	25	12.5	25	0
Millen, Matt, Oak.	2	17	8.5	9	0
Ham, Jack, Pitt.	2	16	8.0	15	0
Jackson, Robert L., Clev.	2	15	7.5	9	0
Martin, Rod, Oak.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Scott, Clarence, Clev.	2	14	7.0	9	0
Buchanan, Willie, S.D.	2	13	6.5	7	0
Butler, Keith, Sea.	2	11	5.5	9	0
Lastavich, Jim, S.D.	2	11	5.5	11	0
Jackson, Michael, Sea.	2	9	4.5	5	0
Williams, Reggie, Cin.	2	8	4.0	8	0
Hawkins, Mike, N.E.	2	5	2.5	5	0
Hall, Charlie, Clev.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Smith, Perry, Den.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Lambert, Jack, Pitt.	2	1	0.5	1	0
Thomas, J.T., Pitt.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Davis, Oliver, Clev.	1	70	70.0	47	0
Spani, Gary, K.C.	1	47	47.0	147	1
Cole, Robin, Pitt.	1	34	34.0	34	0
Shiver, Sanders, Balt.	1	34	34.0	134	1
Haynes, Mike, N.E.	1	31	31.0	31	0
Ryan, Jim, Den.	1	21	21.0	21	0
Johnson, Ron, Pitt.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Harvey, Maurice, Den.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Ortega, Ralph, Mia.	1	17	17.0	17	0
Buttle, Greg, N.Y.J.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Latimer, Don, Den.	1	15	15.0	115	1
Evans, Larry, Den.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Woods, Mike, Balt.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Gordon, Larry, Mia.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Jackson, Bernard, Den.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Jauron, Dick, Cin.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Hicks, Bryan, Cin.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Jackson, Bobby, N.Y.J.	1	7	7.0	7	0
McClanahan, Randy, Oak.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Bokamper, Kim, Mia.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Dombroski, Paul, K.C.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Matthews, Clay, Clev.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Bright, Greg, Cin.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Ehrmann, Joe, Balt.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Matthews, Bill, N.E.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Henderson, Thomas, Hou.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Johnson, Lawrence, Clev.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Kelcher, Louie, S.D.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Nairne, Rob, Den.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Blackwood, Lyle, Balt.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Clark, Mario, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Hartwig, Carter, Hou.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jackson, Monte, Oak.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Justin, Kerry, Sea.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Mangiero, Dino, K.C.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Minor, Vic, Sea.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Nelson, Bob, Oak.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Norman, Joe, Sea.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Paul, Whitney, K.C.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Sanford, Rick, N.E.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Stringert, Hal, S.D.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Thrill, Clifford, S.D.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Webster, Cornell, Sea.	1	0	0.0	0	0
White, Sherman, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Williams, Mike, S.D.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Woodruff, Dwayne, Pitt.	1	0	0.0	0	0

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1980 NFC

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RECORDS

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)

TD's: 22, Gale Sayers, Chicago (1965)

22, Chuck Foreman, Minnesota (1975)

FG's: 33, Chester Marcol, Green Bay (1972)

PAT's: 59, Rafael Septien, Dallas (1980)

NFC SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	Points
Dallas	60	26	30	4	59	60	11	17	1	454
Los Angeles	54	17	31	6	52	54	16	30	0	424
Atlanta	50	15	31	4	46	49	19	27	1	405
Philadelphia	48	19	28	1	48	48	16	31	0	384
Detroit	36	21	13	2	35	36	27	42	1	334
San Francisco	40	10	27	3	33	40	15	19	1	320
Minnesota	39	14	22	3	33	39	16	26	1	317
Chicago	38	22	13	3	35	37	13	18	1	304
St. Louis	37	19	16	2	35	37	14	23	0	299
New Orleans	37	9	26	2	33	37	12	22	0	291
Tampa Bay	32	9	20	3	31	32	16	23	0	271
Washington	30	12	17	1	27	30	18	33	0	261
New York Giants	29	10	19	0	27	29	16	24	0	249
Green Bay	29	13	15	1	24	28	11	20	0	231

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	Pts
Murray, Ed, Det.	35	36	27	42	116
Mazzetti, Tim, Atl.	46	49	19	27	103
Corral, Frank, L.A.	51	52	16	30	99
Franklin, Tony, Phil.	48	48	16	31	96
Septien, Rafael, Dall.	59	60	11	17	92
Danmeier, Rick, Minn.	33	38	16	26	81
Moseley, Mark, Wash.	27	30	18	33	81
Yepremian, Garo, T.B.	31	32	16	23	79
Wersching, Ray, S.F.	33	39	15	19	78
Danelo, Joe, N.Y.G.	27	28	16	24	75
Thomas, Bob, Chi.	35	37	13	18	74
Ricardo, Benny, N.O.	31	34	10	17	61
O'Donoghue, Neil, St. L.	18	11	15	51	51
Birney, Tom, G.B.	14	18	6	12	32
Little, Steve, St. L.	17	19	3	8	26
Stenerud, Jan, G.B.	3	3	3	5	12
Erxleben, Russell, N.O.	2	2	2	5	8

NON-KICKERS

	TD	R	P	M	Pts
Sims, Billy, Det.	16	13	3	0	96
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	11	11	0	0	66
Brown, Ted, Minn.	10	8	2	0	60
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	10	0	10	0	60
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	10	8	2	0	60
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	10	0	8	2	60
Anderson, Ottis, St. L.	9	9	0	0	54
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	9	8	1	0	54
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	9	0	9	0	54
Cooper, Earl, S.F.	9	5	4	0	54
Miller, Junior, Atl.	9	0	9	0	54
Peacock, Elvis, L.A.	9	7	2	0	54
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	8	0	8	0	48
Ellis, Gerry, G.B.	8	5	3	0	48
Evans, Vince, Chi.	8	8	0	0	48
Harmon, Clarence, Wash.	8	4	4	0	48
Hill, Tony, Dall.	8	0	8	0	48
Miller, Willie, L.A.	8	0	8	0	48
DuPree, Billy Joe, Dall.	7	0	7	0	42
Francis, Wallace, Atl.	7	0	7	0	42
Jackson, Alfred, Atl.	7	0	7	0	42
Morris, Wayne, St. L.	7	6	1	0	42
Payton, Walter, Chi.	7	6	1	0	42
Senser, Joe, Minn.	7	0	7	0	42
Springs, Ron, Dall.	7	6	1	0	42
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	6	3	3	0	36
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	6	0	6	0	36
Childs, Henry, N.O.	6	0	6	0	36
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	6	0	6	0	36
Harris, Ike, N.O.	6	0	6	0	36
Jenkins, Alfred, Atl.	6	0	6	0	36
Newhouse, Robert, Dall.	6	6	0	0	36
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	6	0	6	0	36

	TD	R	P	M	Pts
Tilley, Pat, St. L.	6	0	6	0	36
Andrews, William, Atl.	5	4	1	0	30
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	5	3	2	0	30
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	5	4	1	0	30
Harper, Roland, Chi.	5	5	0	0	30
House, Kevin, T.B.	5	0	5	0	30
Jones, Gordon, T.B.	5	0	5	0	30
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	5	0	5	0	30
Scott, Freddie, Det.	5	1	4	0	30
Thompson, Ricky, Wash.	5	0	5	0	30
Waddy, Billy, L.A.	5	0	5	0	30
White, Sammy, Minn.	5	0	5	0	30
Young, Rickey, Minn.	5	3	2	0	30
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Guman, Mike, L.A.	4	4	0	0	24
Harris, Leroy, Phil.	4	3	1	0	24
Ivery, Eddie Lee, G.B.	4	3	1	0	24
Jackson, Wilbur, Wash.	4	3	1	0	24
Johnson, Butch, Dall.	4	0	4	0	24
Krepfle, Keith, Phil.	4	0	4	0	24
Lofton, James, G.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Marsh, Doug, St. L.	4	0	4	0	24
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	4	4	0	0	24
Williams, Doug, T.B.	4	4	0	0	24
Bell, Ricky, T.B.	3	2	1	0	18
Bussey, Dexter, Det.	3	3	0	0	18
Campfield, Billy, Phil.	3	1	2	0	18
Coffman, Paul, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Earl, Robin, Chi.	3	0	3	0	18
Eckwood, Jerry, T.B.	3	2	1	0	18
Elliott, Lenvil, S.F.	3	2	1	0	18
Gray, Mel, St. L.	3	0	3	0	18
Harrell, Willard, St. L.	3	3	0	0	18
Heater, Larry, N.Y.G.	3	3	0	0	18
Hicks, Victor, L.A.	3	0	3	0	18
Hill, Drew, L.A.	3	0	2	1	18
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	3	1	2	0	18
Holmes, Jack, N.O.	3	2	1	0	18
Monk, Art, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18
Perkins, Johnny, N.Y.G.	3	0	3	0	18
Rogers, Jimmy, N.O.	3	1	2	0	18
Scott, James, Chi.	3	0	3	0	18
Smith, Charles, Phil.	3	0	3	0	18
Spagnola, John, Phil.	3	0	3	0	18
Theismann, Joe, Wash.	3	3	0	0	18
Thomas, Jewell, L.A.	3	2	0	1	18
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	3	0	3	0	18
Williams, Ray, Det.	3	1	1	1	18
Atkins, Steve, G.B.	2	1	1	0	12
Bartkowski, Steve, Atl.	2	2	0	0	12
Baschnagel, Brian, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12

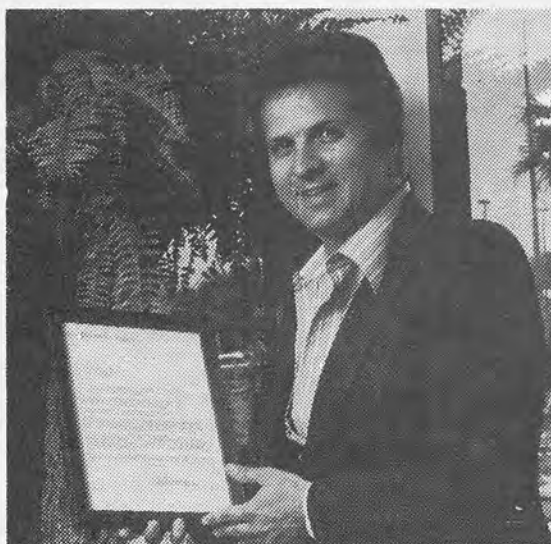
t = Touchdown

Quarterback Ron Jaworski led the Philadelphia Eagles to their first Super Bowl.

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1979 Record

9/16	New York Jets	-6	Won
9/23	Miami Dolphins	-6½	Won
9/30	Dallas Cowboys	-10	Won
10/7	New England Patriots	-13	Lost
10/14	San Diego Chargers	-8	Won
10/21	New England Patriots	-5	Won
10/28	Los Angeles Rams	-7	Lost
11/4	Green Bay Packers	+4	Lost
11/11	Denver Broncos	+1	Won
11/18	Washington Redskins	+4	Won
11/25	Kansas City Chiefs	+11	Lost
12/2	Pittsburgh Steelers	-13	Won
12/9	Washington Redskins	-6	Won
12/16	Pittsburgh Steelers	-13	Won
12/16	Washington Redskins	+9	Won

Won 11 Lost 4

1979 Record

73% Winners

1980 Record

65% Winners

1980 Record

9/7	St. Louis Cardinals	-7	Lost
9/8	Washington Redskins	-3	Lost
9/14	Miami Dolphins	-6½	Lost
9/21	Denver Broncos	-2	Lost
9/28	St. Louis Cardinals	+6	Won
9/28	Cincinnati Bengals	+3½	Won
10/5	Atlanta Falcons	+1	Won
10/5	Green Bay Packers	+7	Won
10/12	St. Louis Cardinals	+3	Lost
10/19	Washington Redskins	-4	Won
10/19	San Diego Chargers	-16	Won
10/26	Atlanta Falcons	+3	Won
11/2	St. Louis Cardinals	+4	Won
11/9	Minnesota Vikings	-1	Won
11/16	Chicago Bears	+3½	Lost
11/20	Miami Dolphins	+3½	Won
11/23	New York Jets	+6½	Won
11/30	New York Jets	+10	Lost
11/30	New York Giants	+2½	Lost
12/7	Buffalo Bills	+1	Won
12/7	Cincinnati Bengals	+2½	Won
12/7	Oakland Raiders	+3	Lost
12/8	Miami Dolphins	+3	Won
12/14	Minnesota Vikings	+3	Won
12/21	Cincinnati Bengals	+4	Won
12/29	Pitt Panthers	-10	Won

Won 17 Lost 9

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NFC Statistics

	TD	R	P	M	Pts
Brown, Theotis, St. L.	2	1	1	0	12
Claitt, Ricky, Wash.	2	1	1	0	12
Danielson, Gary, Det.	2	2	0	0	12
Fisher, Robert, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Fitzkee, Scott, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Forde, Ike, Wash.	2	1	1	0	12
Hagins, Isaac, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Hogan, Mike, N.Y.G.-Phil.	2	2	0	0	12
King, Horace, Det.	2	1	1	0	12
Middleton, Terrell, G.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Montana, Joe, S.F.	2	2	0	0	12
Mullady, Tom, N.Y.G.	2	0	2	0	12
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	2	2	0	0	12
Pearson, Preston, Dall.	2	0	2	0	12
Perry, Leon, N.Y.G.	2	1	1	0	12
Phipps, Mike, Chi.	2	2	0	0	12
Ramson, Eason, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Watts, Rickey, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Williams, Brooks, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	2	1	1	0	12
Young, Charlie, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
Page, Alan, Chi.	1	0	0	1	*8
Williams, Joel, Atl.	1	0	0	1	*8
Cromwell, Nolan, L.A.	1	0	0	1	**7
Allen, Carl, St. L.	1	0	0	1	6
Arnold, Walt, L.A.	1	0	1	0	6
Brown, Cedric, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Cole, Larry, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Combs, Chris, St. L.	1	0	1	0	6
Cosbie, Doug, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Curry, Buddy, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Davis, Johnny, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Davis, Tony, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Dickey, Lynn, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Dutton, John, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Ferragamo, Vince, L.A.	1	1	0	0	6
Garrett, Alvin, N.Y.G.	1	0	1	0	6
Green, Roy, St. L.	1	0	0	1	6
Hammond, Bobby, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Hannon, Tom, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Harrington, Perry, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Hegman, Mike, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Hill, David, Det.	1	0	1	0	6
Huckleby, Harlan, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Johnson, Johnnie, L.A.	1	0	0	1	6
Knoff, Kurt, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	1	1	0	0	6
Larson, Bill, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Lavender, Joe, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Logan, David, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Marcol, Chester, G.B.	1	0	0	1	#6
Martin, George, N.Y.G.	1	0	1	0	6
McClendon, Willie, Chi.	1	1	0	0	6
Miller, Robert, Minn.	1	1	0	0	6
Moore, Jeff, L.A.	1	0	1	0	6
Nord, Keith, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Oldham, Ray, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Owens, James, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Parker, Rodney, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Paschal, Doug, Minn.	1	1	0	0	6
Perry, Rod, L.A.	1	0	0	1	6
Price, Elex, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Reed, Frank, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Reese, Don, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Richardson, Al, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Robinson, Jerry, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Saldi, Jay, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Schumann, Mike, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Shirk, Gary, N.Y.G.	1	0	1	0	6
Simms, Phil, N.Y.G.	1	1	0	0	6
Strong, Ray, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Thurman, Dennis, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Tucker, Bob, Minn.	1	0	1	0	6
Walker, Rick, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Walterscheid, Len, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
White, Danny, Dall.	1	1	0	0	6
Williams, Dave, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
Wood, Richard, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6

* = Safety (also 1 team: Dallas)

** = Cromwell scored XP on run

= Marcol's NFL total of 23 points included 19 with Green Bay (13 points kicking, plus 1 touchdown)

	TD	R	P	M	Pts
Youngblood, Jim, L.A.	1	0	0	1	6
Cole, Eddie, Det.	0	0	0	0	*2
Holloway, Randy, Minn.	0	0	0	0	*2
Stuckey, Jim, S.F.	0	0	0	0	*2

NFC RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 369, Walter Payton, Chicago

(1979)

Yards: 1,863, Jim Brown, Cleveland (1963)

TD's: 19, Jim Taylor, Green Bay (1962)

20 OR MORE YARDS

	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Payton, Walter, Chi.	317	1460	4.6	169	6
Anderson, Otis, St. L.	301	1352	4.5	52	9
Andrews, William, Atl.	265	1308	4.9	33	4
Sims, Billy, Det.	313	1303	4.2	52	13
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	278	1185	4.3	56	11
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	235	914	3.9	37	8
Brown, Ted, Minn.	219	912	4.2	155	8
Ivery, Eddie Lee, G.B.	202	831	4.1	138	3
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	183	807	4.4	20	3
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	193	778	4.0	172	8
Peacock, Elvis, L.A.	164	777	4.7	36	7
Bussey, Dexter, Det.	145	720	5.0	40	3
Cooper, Earl, S.F.	171	720	4.2	47	5
Jackson, Wilbur, Wash.	176	708	4.0	155	3
Bell, Ricky, T.B.	174	599	3.4	40	2
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	147	580	3.9	35	4
Ellis, Gerry, G.B.	126	545	4.3	22	5
Eckwood, Jerry, T.B.	149	504	3.4	135	2
Harmon, Clarence, Wash.	128	484	3.8	23	4
Morris, Wayne, St. L.	117	456	3.9	24	6
Newhouse, Robert, Dall.	118	451	3.8	129	6
Thomas, Jewell, L.A.	65	427	6.6	61	2
Guman, Mike, L.A.	100	410	4.1	17	4
Harper, Roland, Chi.	113	404	3.6	13	5
Williams, Doug, T.B.	58	370	6.4	27	4
Rogers, Jimmy, N.O.	80	366	4.6	24	1
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	97	361	3.7	44	4
Heater, Larry, N.Y.G.	111	360	3.2	11	3
Young, Rickey, Minn.	130	351	2.7	14	3
Elliott, Lervil, S.F.	76	341	4.5	20	2
Harris, Leroy, Phil.	104	341	3.3	22	3
Springs, Ron, Dall.	89	326	3.7	120	6
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	81	308	3.8	26	3
Evans, Vince, Chi.	60	306	5.1	58	8
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	60	293	4.9	126	1
Perry, Leon, N.Y.G.	59	272	4.6	17	1
Hammond, Bobby, Wash.	45	265	5.9	36	0
Woods, Don, S.D.-S.F.	54	239	4.4	23	0
Danielson, Gary, Det.	48	232	4.8	33	2
Atkins, Steve, G.B.	67	216	3.2	16	1
Claitt, Ricky, Wash.	57	215	3.8	16	1
Simms, Phil, N.Y.G.	36	190	5.3	20	1
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	63	188	3.0	15	1
Brown, Theotis, St. L.	40	186	4.7	19	1
Matthews, Bo, N.Y.G.	64	180	2.8	18	0
Theismann, Joe, Wash.	29	175	6.0	137	3
Harrell, Willard, St. L.	42	170	4.0	26	3
Manning, Archie, N.O.	23	166	7.2	24	0
Harrington, Perry, Phil.	32	166	5.2	119	1
Tyler, Wendell, L.A.	30	157	5.2	17	0
Middleton, Terrell, G.B.	56	155	2.8	15	2
Jones, James, Dall.	41	135	3.3	9	0
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	40	132	3.3	13	0
Berns, Rick, T.B.	39	131	3.4	17	0
Davis, Johnny, T.B.	39	130	3.3	8	1
Kane, Rick, Det.	31	125	4.0	22	0
Hill, Eddie, L.A.	39	120	3.1	19	0
Campfield, Billy, Phil.	44	120	2.7	9	1
Holmes, Jack, N.O.	38	119	3.1	20	2
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	31	115	3.7	13	1
White, Danny, Dall.	27	114	4.2	48	1
Miller, Robert, Minn.	27	98	3.6	127	1
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	27	95	3.5	19	1
Hogan, Mike, N.Y.G.-Phil.	34	90	2.6	12	2
McClendon, Willie, Chi.	10	88	8.8	48	1
Mayberry, James, Atl.	18	88	4.9	24	0
Scott, Freddie, Det.	5	86	17.2	148	1
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	25	79	3.2	23	2
Montana, Joe, S.F.	32	77	2.4	11	2
White, Sammy, Minn.	4	65	16.3	45	0
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	6	61	10.2	30	0



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King, Horace, Det.	18	57	3.2	8	1
Williams, Dave, Chi.	26	57	2.2	14	0
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	8	56	7.0	11	0
Skibinski, John, Chi.	13	54	4.2	8	0
Paschal, Doug, Minn.	15	53	3.5	110	1
Forte, Ike, Wash.	30	51	1.7	6	1
Hicks, Eddie, N.Y.G.	19	50	2.6	9	0
Suhey, Matt, Chi.	22	45	2.0	10	0
Strong, Ray, Atl.	6	42	7.0	121	1
Strachan, Mike, N.O.	20	41	2.1	10	0
Phipps, Mike, Chi.	15	38	2.5	9	2
Francis, Phil, S.F.	7	36	5.1	14	0
Bartkowski, Steve, Atl.	25	35	1.4	11	2
Ferragamo, Vince, L.A.	15	34	2.3	15	1
Smith, Charles, Phil.	5	33	6.6	16	0
House, Kevin, T.B.	1	32	32.0	32	0
Garrett, Alvin, N.Y.G.	9	31	3.4	10	0
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	2	30	15.0	32	0
Hill, Tony, Dall.	4	27	6.8	15	0
Dils, Steve, Minn.	3	26	8.7	19	0
Hagins, Isaac, T.B.	3	24	8.0	26	0
Davis, Tony, T.B.	5	24	4.8	8	0
LeMaster, Frank, Phil.	2	21	10.5	11	0
Beverly, David, G.B.	6	21	3.5	11	0
Davis, Gary, T.B.	7	21	3.0	12	0
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	2	20	10.0	21	0

	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
NFC					
Los Angeles	615	2,799	4.6	61	17
Detroit	572	2,599	4.5	52	21
Chicago	579	2,440	4.2	169	22
Atlanta	559	2,405	4.3	37	15
Dallas	595	2,378	4.0	56	26
St. Louis	519	2,183	4.2	52	19
Washington	517	2,016	3.9	155	12
Philadelphia	527	1,995	3.8	172	19
Tampa Bay	477	1,839	3.9	40	9
Green Bay	493	1,806	3.7	138	13
San Francisco	415	1,743	4.2	47	10
New York Giants	483	1,730	3.6	35	10
Minnesota	433	1,642	3.8	155	14
New Orleans	348	1,362	3.9	26	9

NFC PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 93, John Morris, Chicago

(1964)

Yards: 1,495, Elroy Hirsch, Los Angeles

(1951)

TD's: 17, Don Hutson, Green Bay (1942)

17, Elroy Hirsch, Los Angeles (1951)

8 OR MORE RECEPTIONS	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Cooper, Earl, S.F.	83	567	6.8	166	4
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	82	991	12.1	171	8
Lofton, James, G.B.	71	1226	17.3	47	4
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	69	1095	15.9	176	5
Tilley, Pat, St. L.	68	966	14.2	160	6
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	65	975	15.0	50	6
Young, Ricky, Minn.	64	499	7.8	22	2
Brown, Ted, Minn.	62	623	10.0	167	2
Hill, Tony, Dall.	60	1055	17.6	158	8
Monk, Art, Wash.	58	797	13.7	154	3
Jenkins, Alfred, Atl.	57	1026	18.0	57	6
Galbreath, Tony, N.O.	57	470	8.2	21	2
Francis, Wallace, Atl.	54	862	16.0	181	7
Harmon, Clarence, Wash.	54	534	9.9	45	4
White, Sammy, Minn.	53	887	16.7	50	5
Scott, Freddie, Det.	53	834	15.7	143	4
Bryant, Cullen, L.A.	53	386	7.3	25	3
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	52	777	14.9	150	10
Sims, Billy, Det.	51	621	12.2	187	3
Andrews, William, Atl.	51	456	8.9	26	1
Ivery, Eddie Lee, G.B.	50	481	9.6	146	1
Montgomery, Wilbert, Phil.	50	407	8.1	31	2
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	48	815	17.0	156	9
Jones, Gordon, T.B.	48	669	13.9	141	5
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	48	658	13.7	193	8
Ellis, Gerry, G.B.	48	496	10.3	169	3
Smith, Charles, Phil.	47	825	17.6	46	3
Eckwood, Jerry, T.B.	47	475	10.1	40	1
Miller, Junior, Atl.	46	584	12.7	36	9
Payton, Walter, Chi.	46	367	8.0	154	1

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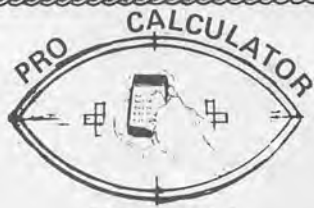
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NFC Statistics

	No	Yds	Avq	Lng	TD
Pearson, Drew, Dall.	43	568	13.2	30	6
Coffman, Paul, G.B.	42	496	11.8	25	3
Senser, Joe, Minn.	42	447	10.6	158	7
Hofer, Paul, S.F.	41	467	11.4	28	2
Gray, Mel, St. L.	40	709	17.7	169	3
Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	40	609	15.2	55	2
Hill, David, Det.	39	424	10.9	29	1
Bussey, Dexter, Det.	39	364	9.3	30	0
Waddy, Billy, L.A.	38	670	17.6	144	5
Bell, Ricky, T.B.	38	292	7.7	22	1
Harris, Ike, N.O.	37	692	18.7	144	6
Scott, James, Chi.	36	696	19.3	164	3
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	36	596	16.6	44	6
Anderson, Ottis, St. L.	36	308	8.6	35	0
Childs, Henry, N.O.	34	463	13.6	30	6
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	34	263	7.7	27	0
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.	33	602	18.2	51	4
Taylor, Billy, N.Y.G.	33	253	7.7	42	0
Warren, Don, Wash.	31	323	10.4	35	0
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	31	241	7.8	42	1
Kreple, Keith, Phil.	30	450	15.0	27	4
Young, Charlie, S.F.	29	325	11.2	41	2
DuPree, Billy Joe, Dall.	29	312	10.8	39	7
Holmes, Jack, N.O.	29	226	7.8	16	1
Baschnagel, Brian, Chi.	28	396	14.1	37	2
Mullady, Tom, N.Y.G.	28	391	14.0	42	2
Elliott, Lenvil, S.F.	27	285	10.6	145	1
Jackson, Wilbur, Wash.	27	279	10.3	27	1
Rogers, Jimmy, N.O.	27	267	9.9	43	2
Williams, Brooks, N.O.	26	351	13.5	56	2
Campfield, Billy, Phil.	26	275	10.6	50	2
Saldi, Jay, Dall.	25	311	12.4	43	1
Pittman, Dan, N.Y.G.	25	308	12.3	22	0
Peacock, Elvis, L.A.	25	213	8.5	159	2
House, Kevin, T.B.	24	531	22.1	61	5
Cain, Lynn, Atl.	24	223	9.3	30	1
Hammond, Bobby, Wash.	24	203	8.5	38	1
Jackson, Alfred, Atl.	23	412	17.9	154	7
Hagins, Isaac, T.B.	23	364	15.8	48	2
Hicks, Victor, L.A.	23	318	13.8	132	3
Watts, Rickey, Chi.	22	444	20.2	189	2
Friede, Mike, Det.-N.Y.G.	22	371	16.9	48	0
Miller, Willie, L.A.	22	358	16.3	45	8
Thompson, Ricky, Wash.	22	313	14.2	154	5
Marsh, Doug, St. L.	22	269	12.2	29	4
Williams, Dave, Chi.	22	132	6.0	18	0
Brown, Theotis, St. L.	21	290	13.8	63	1
Shirk, Gary, N.Y.G.	21	211	10.0	21	1
Ramson, Eason, S.F.	21	179	8.5	22	2
Pearson, Preston, Dall.	20	213	10.7	20	2
Woods, Don, S.F.	20	171	8.6	23	0
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	19	511	26.9	179	3
Hill, Drew, L.A.	19	416	21.9	174	2
Johnson, Butch, Dall.	19	263	13.8	129	4
King, Horace, Det.	19	184	9.7	29	1
Matthews, Bo, N.Y.G.	19	86	4.5	12	0
Earl, Robin, Chi.	18	223	12.4	28	3
Spagnola, John, Phil.	18	193	10.7	20	3

	No	Yds	Avq	Lng	TD
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	17	178	10.5	30	1
Hardeman, Buddy, Wash.	16	178	11.1	46	0
Stief, Dave, St. L.	16	165	10.3	23	0
Springs, Ron, Dall.	15	212	14.1	158	1
Harris, Leroy, Phil.	15	207	13.8	151	1
Forte, Ike, Wash.	15	174	11.6	28	1
Tucker, Bob, Minn.	15	173	11.5	25	1
Morris, Wayne, St. L.	15	110	7.3	24	1
Perkins, Johnny, N.Y.G.	14	193	13.8	158	3
McDaniel, John, Wash.	14	154	11.0	18	0
Guman, Mike, L.A.	14	131	9.4	41	0
Hardy, Larry, N.O.	13	197	15.2	44	0
LeCount, Terry, Minn.	13	168	12.9	21	0
Middleton, Terdell, G.B.	13	59	4.5	17	0
Fisher, Robert, Chi.	12	203	16.9	156	2
Davis, Tony, T.B.	12	115	9.6	18	1
Obradovich, Jim, T.B.	11	152	13.8	24	0
Thompson, Jesse, Det.	11	137	12.5	19	0
Moore, Jeff, L.A.	10	168	16.8	37	1
Williams, Ray, Det.	10	146	14.6	122	1
Heater, Larry, N.Y.G.	10	139	13.9	43	0
Walker, Rick, Wash.	10	88	8.8	115	1
Miller, Robert, Minn.	10	19	1.9	13	0
Parker, Rodney, Phil.	9	148	16.4	130	1
Owens, James, S.F.	9	133	14.8	29	0
Davis, Gary, T.B.	9	79	8.8	15	0
Harrell, Willard, St. L.	9	52	5.8	14	0
Bell, Mark, St. L.	8	123	15.4	34	0
Perry, Leon, N.Y.G.	8	84	10.5	25	1
Newhouse, Robert, Dall.	8	75	9.4	18	0
Harrison, Kenny, Wash.	8	66	8.3	12	0

NFC TOP 25 PASS RECEIVERS BY YARDS

	No	Yds	Avq	Lng	TD
Lofton, James, G.B.	1226	71	17.3	47	4
Rashad, Ahmad, Minn.	1095	69	15.9	176	5
Hill, Tony, Dall.	1055	60	17.6	158	8
Jenkins, Alfred, Atl.	1026	57	18.0	57	6
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	991	82	12.1	171	8
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	975	65	15.0	50	6
Tilley, Pat, St. L.	966	68	14.2	160	6
White, Sammy, Minn.	887	53	16.7	50	5
Francis, Wallace, Atl.	862	54	16.0	181	7
Scott, Fred, Det.	834	53	15.7	143	4
Smith, Charles, Phil.	825	47	17.6	46	3
Carmichael, Harold, Phil.	815	48	17.0	156	9
Monk, Art, Wash.	797	58	13.7	154	3
Gray, Earnest, N.Y.G.	777	52	14.9	150	10
Gray, Mel, St. L.	709	40	17.7	169	3
Scott, James, Chi.	696	36	19.3	164	3
Harris, Ike, N.O.	692	37	18.7	144	6
Waddy, Billy, L.A.	670	38	17.6	144	5
Jones, Gordon, T.B.	669	48	13.9	141	5
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	658	48	13.7	193	8
Brown, Ted, Minn.	623	62	10.0	167	2
Sims, Billy, Det.	621	51	12.2	187	3
Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	609	40	15.2	55	2
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.	602	33	18.2	51	4
Dennard, Preston, L.A.	596	36	16.6	44	6

NFC PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 109, John James, Atlanta (1978)

Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)

Longest: 94 yards, Joe Lintzenich, Chicago (1931)

	No	Yds	Long	Avq	Total Punts	TB	Blk	Opp Ret	Ret Yds	In 20	Net Avq
Jennings, Dave N.Y.G.	94	4211	63	44.8	94	13	0	58	506	16	36.6
Blanchard, Tom, T.B.	88	3722	62	42.3	89	12	1	54	529	18	33.2
Skladany, Tom, Det.	72	3036	67	42.2	73	8	1	38	300	16	35.3
Swider, Larry, St. L.	99	4111	66	41.5	100	15	1	62	645	12	31.7
Miller, Jim, S.F.	77	3252	65	40.9	77	5	0	48	530	11	32.8
White, Danny, Dall.	71	2903	58	40.9	71	11	0	32	215	17	34.8
Parsons, Bob, Chi.	79	3207	61	40.6	79	10	0	46	415	16	32.8
Coral, Frank, L.A.	76	3002	65	39.5	77	5	1	42	353	14	33.1
Erxleben, Russell, N.O.	89	3499	57	39.3	89	3	0	48	490	23	33.1
Runager, Max, Phil.	75	2947	58	39.3	76	8	1	35	224	16	33.7
Connell, Mike, Wash.	85	3331	57	39.2	85	7	0	52	351	11	33.4
James, John, Atl.	79	3087	59	39.1	79	7	0	36	240	25	34.3
Coleman, Greg, Minn.	81	3139	65	38.8	81	8	0	42	259	20	33.6
Beverly, David, G.B.	86	3294	55	38.3	86	6	0	50	342	18	32.9

NFC PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 347, Steve DeBerg, San Francisco (1979)

TD's: 36, Y.A. Tittle, New York (1963)

Yards: 3,747 Sonny Jurgensen, Washington (1967)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frank Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)

99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)

99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)

99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Gerry Allen, Washington (1968)

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yards	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Ratings Points
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	451	257	57.0	3529	7.82	27	6.0	156	12	2.7	90.9
Ferragamo, Vince, L.A.	404	240	59.4	3199	7.92	30	7.4	174	19	4.7	89.7
Bartkowski, Steve, Atl.	463	257	55.5	3544	7.65	31	6.7	181	16	3.5	88.0
Montana, Joe, S.F.	273	176	64.5	1795	6.58	15	5.5	171	9	3.3	87.8
Danielson, Gary, Det.	417	244	58.5	3223	7.73	13	3.1	187	11	2.6	82.6
Manning, Archie, N.O.	509	309	60.7	3716	7.30	23	4.5	56	20	3.9	81.8
White, Danny, Dall.	436	260	59.6	3287	7.54	28	6.4	158	25	5.7	80.8
Theismann, Joe, Wash.	454	262	57.7	2962	6.52	17	3.7	154	16	3.5	75.1
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	522	299	57.3	3582	6.86	19	3.6	176	23	4.4	72.1
Dickey, Lynn, G.B.	478	278	58.2	3529	7.38	15	3.1	169	25	5.2	70.0
Williams, Doug, T.B.	521	254	48.8	3396	6.52	20	3.8	61	16	3.1	69.7
Hart, Jim, St. L.	425	228	53.6	2946	6.93	16	3.8	169	20	4.7	68.7
DeBerg, Steve, S.F.	321	186	57.9	1998	6.22	12	3.7	193	17	5.3	66.5
Evans, Vince, Chi.	278	148	53.2	2039	7.33	11	4.0	189	16	5.8	66.1
Simms, Phil, N.Y.G.	402	193	48.0	2321	5.77	15	3.7	158	19	4.7	58.9

NON-QUALIFIERS

Dils, Steve, Minn.	51	32	62.7	352	6.90	3	5.9	158	0	0.0	102.8
Carano, Glenn, Dall.	12	5	41.7	69	5.75	2	16.7	25	0	0.0	100.4
Pisarcik, Joe, Phil.	22	15	68.2	187	8.50	0	0.0	46	0	0.0	94.3
Scott, Bobby, N.O.	33	16	48.5	200	6.06	2	6.1	40	1	3.0	75.6
Kruczek, Mike, Wash.	31	22	71.0	209	6.74	0	0.0	41	2	6.5	62.3
Brunner, Scott, N.Y.G.	112	52	46.4	610	5.45	4	3.6	150	6	5.4	53.0
Phipps, Mike, Chi.	122	61	50.0	630	5.16	2	1.6	156	9	7.4	39.8
Loyd, Mike, St. L.	28	5	17.9	49	1.75	0	0.0	20	1	3.6	24.6
Benjamin, Guy, N.O.	17	7	41.2	28	1.65	0	0.0	17	1	5.9	24.3
Haden, Pat, L.A.	41	19	46.3	185	4.51	0	0.0	24	4	9.8	19.9
Whitehurst, David, G.B.	15	5	33.3	55	3.67	0	0.0	24	1	6.7	17.2
Lisch, Rusty, St. L.	17	6	35.3	68	4.00	0	0.0	23	3	17.6	8.6
Troup, Bill, G.B.	12	4	33.3	48	4.00	0	0.0	24	3	25.0	6.9

NFC PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay, (1979)

Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1978)

Longest for TD: 98 yards, Gil LeFebvre, Cincinnati (1933)

98 yards, Charlie West, Minnesota (1968)

98 yards, Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

2 OR MORE

	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Johnson, Kenny, Atl.	23	5	281	12.2	56	0
Solomon, Freddie, S.F.	27	2	298	11.0	157	2
Green, Roy, St. L.	16	6	168	10.5	157	1
Jones, James, Dall.	54	4	548	10.1	52	0
Nelms, Mike, Wash.	48	5	487	10.1	64	0
Smith, Reggie, Atl.	27	4	262	9.7	25	0
Williams, Ray, Det.	27	4	259	9.6	53	0
Bell, Mark, St. L.	21	3	195	9.3	54	0
Sciarr, John, Phil.	36	1	330	9.2	32	0
Henry, Wally, Phil.	26	1	222	8.5	30	0
Garrett, Alvin, N.Y.G.	35	11	287	8.2	66	0
Cassidy, Ron, G.B.	17	5	139	8.2	20	0
Payton, Eddie, Minn.	34	9	251	7.4	19	0
Arnold, John, Det.	28	6	204	7.3	19	0
Walterscheid, Len, Chi.	33	11	239	7.2	25	0
Irvin, Leroy, L.A.	42	7	296	7.0	26	0
Reece, Danny, T.B.	57	1	313	5.5	19	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Hicks, Dwight, S.F.	12	3	58	4.8	10	0
Mauti, Rich, N.O.	11	5	111	10.1	18	0
Nixon, Fred, G.B.	11	2	85	7.7	16	0
Harrell, Willard, St. L.	11	4	31	2.8	15	0
Chandler, Wes, N.O.	8	6	36	4.5	11	0
Lee, Mark, G.B.	5	0	32	6.4	17	0

No FC Yds Avg Lng TD

Gray, Johnnie, G.B.	4	2	41	10.3	16	0
Lusby, Vaughn, Chi.	4	1	14	3.5	4	0
Robinson, Jimmy, S.F.	3	0	36	12.0	21	0
Waymer, Dave, N.O.	3	0	29	9.7	14	0
Lawrence, Roland, Atl.	3	0	-7	-2.3	6	0
Watts, Rickey, Chi.	2	0	20	10.0	11	0
Churchman, Ricky, S.F.	2	0	16	8.0	13	0
Reece, Beasley, N.Y.G.	2	1	15	7.5	15	0
Waddy, Billy, L.A.	2	0	10	5.0	10	0

NFC INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)

Yards: 301, Don Doll, Detroit (1949)

Longest return: 102 yards, Bob Smith, Detroit (1949)

102 yards, Erich Barnes, New York (1961)

TD's: 3, Dick Lynch, New York (1963)

3, Herb Adderley, Green Bay (1966)

3, Monte Jackson, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Rod Perry, Los Angeles (1978)

Washington	33	319	9.7	151	1
Dallas	27	523	19.4	178	3
Atlanta	26	313	12.0	52	0
Los Angeles	25	546	21.8	199	4
Philadelphia	25	170	6.8	41	0
Minnesota	24	296	12.3	167	2
Detroit	23	168	7.3	129	1
St. Louis	20	327	16.4	170	1
New York Giants	18	113	6.3	28	0
San Francisco	17	186	10.9	44	0
Chicago	17	162	9.5	136	1
Tampa Bay	15	179	11.9	155	1
Green Bay	13	92	7.1	21	0
New Orleans	12	196	16.3	48	0

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NFC Statistics

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Cromwell, Nolan, L.A.	8	140	17.5	34	1
Richardson, Al, Atl.	7	139	19.9	52	0
Parrish, Lemar, Wash.	7	13	1.9	9	0
Lavender, Joe, Wash.	6	96	16.0	151	1
Wilson, Brenard, Phil.	6	79	13.2	41	0
Murphy, Mark, Wash.	6	58	9.7	28	0
Allen, Jimmy, Det.	6	38	6.3	23	0
Turner, John, Minn.	6	22	3.7	13	0
Hunter, James, Det.	6	20	3.3	13	0
Perry, Rod, L.A.	5	115	23.0	183	1
Thurman, Dennis, Dall.	5	114	22.8	178	1
Myers, Tom, N.O.	5	96	19.2	48	0
Waters, Charlie, Dall.	5	78	15.6	29	0
Dennis, Mike, N.Y.G.	5	68	13.6	28	0
Stone, Ken, St. L.	5	63	12.6	20	0
Gray, Johnnie, G.B.	5	54	10.8	21	0
Hannon, Tom, Minn.	4	89	22.3	141	1
Walterscheid, Len, Chi.	4	84	21.0	136	1
Wilson, Steve, Dall.	4	82	20.5	35	0
Hicks, Dwight, S.F.	4	73	18.3	44	0
Peters, Tony, Wash.	4	59	14.8	37	0
Johnson, Kenny, Atl.	4	49	12.3	33	0
Greene, Ken, St. L.	4	41	10.3	26	0
Washington, Mike, T.B.	4	30	7.5	16	0
Young, Royneil, Phil.	4	27	6.8	26	0
Churchman, Ricky, S.F.	4	7	1.8	7	0
Milot, Rich, Wash.	4	-8	-2.0	2	0
Allen, Carl, St. L.	3	104	34.7	170	1
Johnson, Johnnie, L.A.	3	102	34.0	199	1
Coleman, Monte, Wash.	3	92	30.7	41	0
Knoff, Kurt, Minn.	3	87	29.0	167	1
Wood, Richard, T.B.	3	76	25.3	155	1
Mitchell, Aaron, Dall.	3	56	18.7	56	0
Oldham, Ray, Det.	3	39	13.0	129	1
Lawrence, Rolland, Atl.	3	37	12.3	37	0
Campbell, Gary, Chi.	3	36	12.0	15	0
Breunig, Bob, Dall.	3	34	11.3	15	0
Cotney, Mark, T.B.	3	28	9.3	21	0
Reece, Beasley, N.Y.G.	3	24	8.0	10	0
Thomas, Pat, L.A.	3	14	4.7	14	0
Curry, Buddy, Atl.	3	13	4.3	9	0
Edwards, Herman, Phil.	3	12	4.0	9	0
Bryant, Bobby, Minn.	3	10	3.3	7	0
Johnson, Charlie, Phil.	3	9	3.0	9	0
Van Pelt, Brad, N.Y.G.	3	3	1.0	3	0
Blair, Matt, Minn.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Irvin, Leroy, L.A.	2	80	40.0	80	0
Brune, Larry, Minn.	2	68	34.0	52	0
Williams, Joel, Atl.	2	55	27.5	32	0
Dickerson, Anthony, Dall.	2	46	23.0	34	0
Delaney, Jeff, L.A.	2	42	21.0	27	0
Brown, Ray, N.O.	2	31	15.5	29	0
Williams, Eric, St. L.	2	31	15.5	20	0
Leopold, Bobby, S.F.	2	23	11.5	13	0
Collier, Tim, St. L.	2	22	11.0	22	0
White, Stan, Det.	2	22	11.0	15	0
Marshall, James, N.O.	2	17	8.5	17	0
Wright, Nate, Minn.	2	16	8.0	10	0
Turner, Keena, S.F.	2	15	7.5	11	0
Robinson, Jerry, Phil.	2	13	6.5	13	0
Turner, Wylie, G.B.	2	13	6.5	13	0
Glazebrook, Bob, Atl.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Wison, Otis, Chi.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Hegman, Mike, Dall.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Jolly, Mike, G.B.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Muckensturm, Jerry, Chi.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Pridemore, Tom, Atl.	2	2	1.0	2	0
White, Jeris, Wash.	2	1	0.5	1	0
Blackmore, Richard, Phil.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Woolford, Gary, N.Y.G.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Cole, Larry, Dall.	1	43	43.0	143	1
Colzie, Neal, T.B.	1	39	39.0	39	0
Dutton, John, Dall.	1	38	38.0	138	1
Grooms, Elois, N.O.	1	37	37.0	37	0
Youngblood, Jim, L.A.	1	33	33.0	133	1
Barnes, Benny, Dall.	1	30	30.0	30	0
Williams, Gerard, S.F.	1	28	28.0	28	0
Rhodes, Ray, S.F.	1	25	25.0	25	0
Wehrli, Roger, St. L.	1	25	25.0	25	0
Smith, Wayne, Det.	1	23	23.0	23	0
Kearney, Tim, St. L.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Plank, Doug, Chi.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Reynolds, Jack, L.A.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Williams, Walt, Det.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Logan, Randy, Phil.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Johnson, Charles, S.F.	1	15	15.0	15	0

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	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Mathis, Reggie, N.O.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Rudzinski, Paul, G.B.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Fantetti, Ken, Det.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Green, Roy, St. L.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Brown, Rush, St. L.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Luke, Steve, G.B.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Fencik, Gary, Chi.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Hicks, Tom, Chi.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Smith, Paul, Wash.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Bergey, Bill, Phil.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Laughlin, Jim, Atl.	1	7	7.0	7	0
LeMaster, Frank, Phil.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Marion, Frank, N.Y.G.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Brantley, Scot, T.B.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Haynes, Mark, N.Y.G.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Jackson, Terry, N.Y.G.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Yeates, Jeff, Atl.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Studwell, Scott, Minn.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Baker, Al, Det.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Bradley, Luther, Det.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Brown, Cedric, T.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Ellis, Allan, Chi.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Hairston, Carl, Phil.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Hebert, Bud, N.Y.G.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Henry, Steve, N.Y.G.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Hood, Estus, G.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jones, Earl, Atl.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Kovach, Jim, N.O.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Lewis, David, T.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
McCoy, Mike C., G.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Page, Alan, Chi.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Puki, Craig, S.F.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Schmidt, Terry, Chi.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Tautolo, Terry, S.F.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Thomas, Norris, T.B.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Wilkes, Reggie, Phil.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Weaver, Charlie, Det.	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0

NFC KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 53, Eddie Payton, Minnesota (1980)

Yards: 1,314, Dave Hampton, Green Bay (1971)

**Longest: 106 yards, Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956)
106 yards, Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)**

**TD's: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)
4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)**

	No	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Mauti, Rich, N.O.	31	798	25.7	52	0
Williams, Dave, Chi.	27	666	24.7	195	1
Owens, James, S.F.	31	726	23.4	1101	1
Green, Roy, St. L.	32	745	23.3	37	0
Rogers, Jimmy, N.O.	41	930	22.7	88	0
Jones, James, Dall.	32	720	22.5	41	0
Payton, Eddie, Minn.	53	1184	22.3	59	0
Davis, Gary, T.B.	44	951	21.6	54	0
Kane, Rick, Det.	23	495	21.5	62	0
Suhey, Matt, Chi.	19	406	21.4	31	0
Nelms, Mike, Wash.	38	810	21.3	51	0
Campfield, Billy, Phil.	26	540	20.8	33	0
Smith, Reggie, Atl.	25	512	20.5	35	0
Hill, Drew, L.A.	43	880	20.5	198	1
Lee Mark, G.B.	30	589	19.6	35	0
Reece, Beasley, N.Y.G.	24	471	19.6	35	0
Garrett, Alvin, N.Y.G.	28	527	18.8	41	0
Callicutt, Ken, Det.	16	301	18.8	31	0
Harrell, Willard, St. L.	19	348	18.3	33	0
Elllott, Lenvil, S.F.	18	321	17.8	32	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Thompson, Aundra, G.B.	15	283	18.9	57	0
McCoy, Mike C., G.B.	14	261	18.6	32	0
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	12	293	24.4	36	0
Strong, Ray, Atl.	10	168	16.8	31	0
Williams, Ray, Det.	9	228	25.3	191	1
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	9	159	17.7	27	0
Arnold, John, Det.	9	145	16.1	33	0
Jackson, Wilbur, Wash.	8	204	25.5	35	0
Henry, Wally, Phil.	7	154	22.0	39	0
Wilson, Steve, Dall.	7	139	19.9	34	0
Reece, Danny, T.B.	7	128	18.3	23	0
Giammona, Louie, Phil.	7	82	11.7	16	0

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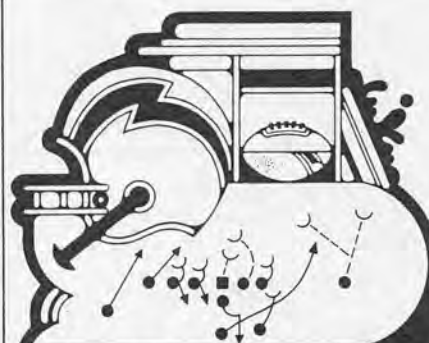
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3	10 - 1	11	5 - 5
4	4 - 2	12	1 - 3
5	5 - 2	13	4 - 0
6	8 - 4	14	4 - 1
7	8 - 1	15	1 - 1
8	3 - 2	16	0 - 0

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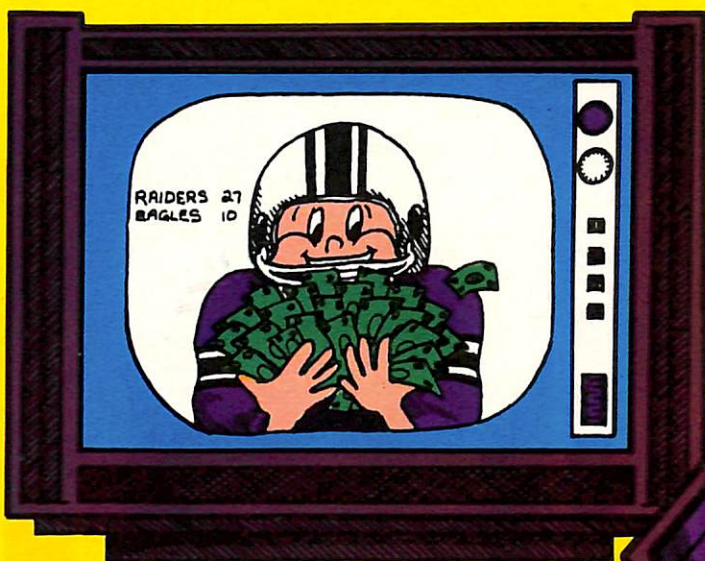
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